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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-94-159* *17 August 1994*

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## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Paper Reports 'Compromise Formula' on Golan

*TA1608141994 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 15 Aug 94 pp 1, 15*

[Text] It has been learned from high-ranking diplomatic sources that a secret meeting between Israeli and Syrian officials will be held this week in a European capital in the presence of observers from an Arab and a western country.

A compromise formula for the Golan front is to be discussed at this meeting. Several parties mediated in the achievement of this formula.

The sources say that the formula includes the following clauses:

- Israeli withdrawal from the Golan will take place in three stages not exceeding 18 months.
- Damascus will announce its recognition of Israel and readiness to exchange ambassadors upon Israeli acceptance to withdraw and the start of withdrawal.
- A demilitarized zone on the Syrian side and a readiness by Damascus to reduce its military power and submit to international inspection.
- Deployment of U.S. forces under the UN flag in the Golan Heights.
- Demilitarization of the Golan Heights.
- Establishment of joint Israeli-Syrian economic projects.
- Special privileges to Syria in Lebanon.
- U.S. early warning stations in the Syrian heights.
- Full normalization of relations between the two countries.
- Handing over of the settlements to the Syrian authorities.
- Canceling of Syrian debts and extension of U.S. economic aid to Damascus.

The diplomatic sources say that September will witness public meetings in the Egyptian capital, under the aegis of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

### Joint Cooperation Discussed at Israel-Jordan Talks

#### Trade Agreement Signed

*TA1608115994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] An Israeli-Jordanian agreement on exports of goods from Jordan to the territories—excluding the autonomy areas—to the tune of $30 million by the end of the year, was signed at the Dead Sea Moriah Hotel today. The agreement stipulates that the importers be Palestinian merchants. Our correspondent Moti Amir explains that the merchants will have to receive permission from the Palestinian Authority.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur came to the Moriah Hotel today where he met delegation heads Elyaqim Rubinstein and Fayiz al-Tarawinah as well as Jordanian Army officers. Deputy Minister Gur told our correspondent he came to hold a concluding discussion, adding that Israel has no intentions of speeding up the negotiations with Jordan.

Elyaqim Rubinstein noted the negotiations are proceeding according to plan and that progress was made in almost all issues, except for the border and water issues.

#### Exports Agreement Detailed

*JN1608164794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Specialized committees, as well as subcommittees stemming from the bilateral Jordanian-Israeli peace talks, have concluded the second day of the second week of the current round of talks taking place on the Israeli side at the Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel. It has been decided that these committees will resume their work tomorrow, excluding the economic committee. Today, a memorandum of understanding between the two sides was initialed regarding the export of Jordanian goods to Palestinian territories outside the self-rule. Details are included in the following report from our correspondent Jamal al-'Abbadi:

[Begin recording] [Al-'Abbadi] The signing of the memorandum was announced by Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the talks. He said:

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The economic committee has concluded its work and will not meet tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. As you have said, an agreement, or a memorandum of understanding, was initialed regarding the issue of export. The agreement will take effect as soon as it is endorsed by the Jordanian and Israeli governments.

[Al-'Abbadi] Regarding the border committee, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said that the Jordanian side today presented a briefing on Jordan's position on this issue, including details of the locations and areas of the occupied Jordanian territories, as well as the [British] mandate maps and lines, as viewed by Jordan. He pointed out that the Israeli side will present its position on this issue tomorrow. He added that regarding the water issue, no remarkable progress was made, pointing out that this is a very thorny issue which needs more time. Regarding development of the Jordan Rift Valley, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said:

[Al-Mu'ashshir] There is no specific move on this issue. As I have said, we are discussing with the Israeli side areas of future cooperation in general. The most important issue being discussed is the issue of developing the Jordan Rift Valley. Before going into details of certain

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projects, we agreed with the Israeli side to draw up an overall concept of the region and how it will be developed in a comprehensive way. The two sides are now working out such a concept. Later, we will look into specific projects in light of that concept, which we are still discussing. The most important future project to be considered seriously is the Red Sea-Dead Sea canal project. We are not discussing details now. We are still tackling the overall framework which will govern the development of the Jordan Rift Valley. [end recording]

### Israeli Statements Disputed

*JN1608121494 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Jordanian and Israeli negotiators have held another day of negotiations at the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. The delegates are reportedly expected to reach positive results on a number of issues by the end of this week.

Spokesman for the Jordanian delegation Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said Israeli statements indicating that an agreement on civil aviation and security [was reached] were not accurate and premature. He said that the two sides were engaged in discussion of all proposals for joint cooperation. He said there was headway by some subcommittees, but this does not mean that they had reached an accord. He also said that contrary to Israeli statements, no agreement has been hammered out concerning security arrangements between Jordan and Israel.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the two sides had not taken up the issue of a northern border crossing between Jordan and Israel, adding that the site could be debated in the next few days. When Radio Jordan's reporter asked Dr. al-Mu'ashshir on whether an agreement is within reach on the main issues of water and border, he said:

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording] I do not expect agreements to be reached on all points. That does not also mean that we are in a stalemate. We have not exhausted options yet. These are difficult issues that need more time than few sessions. So, the lack of any specific progress on these two issues in no way constitutes a stalemate at this point. [end recording]

### Al-Tarawinah Cites 'Progress'

*JN1608170194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Jordan and Israel today initialed an economic agreement under which Jordan will export products and commodities to the Palestinian territories outside the self-rule worth $30 million during this year.

Our correspondent filed this report from the Dead Sea:

[Begin recording] [Jordan Television correspondent Jamal al-'Abbadi recording] The Jordanian and Israeli sides have concluded the second day in the current bilateral round of negotiations amid statements that positive results will be reached this week regarding the export of Jordanian goods to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This is in addition to the issue of civil aviation, on which the two sides expect to reach an agreement.

As for the committees of boundaries, lands, security, and water, the concerned committees will continue their work in line with the agenda. The two sides want to discuss these issues very seriously in order to reach an agreement on a number of aspects related to these issues.

Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation to the negotiations, has said this round of negotiations has studied all minor and major issues in order to avoid any problems in the future regarding any issue under discussion.

[Al-Tarawinah] Indeed, there has been some progress on the trade level. This topic has been discussed for a long time. We think that the natural situation is that there should be a trade flow in acceptable volumes between Jordan and our people in the West Bank.

[Al-'Abbadi] In general, how do you characterize this phase of the talks?

[Al-Tarawinah] Very serious. We have discussed all details of this phase. I want to reassert that we are not proceeding in a vacuum. We have a common agenda that governs everybody. We have other sub-agendas stemming from the common agenda. We also have the Washington Declaration, whose entire spirit stresses the common agenda. We also have committees and subcommittees. We are negotiating over all issues, not leaving out any point at all. [end recording]

[Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic at 1500 GMT, reporting al-Tarawinah's comments, cites al-Tarawinah as saying that "Many issues related to the air corridors have been agreed upon, but the question of altitudes is still being discussed with the Israeli side."]

### Palestinians Arrive in Cairo for Talks With Peres

*NC1708051894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—A Palestinian delegation including Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Jamil al-Tarifi, and Dr. Nabil Qasis arrived in Cairo tonight to join the members of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee. The committee starts its meetings tomorrow, Wednesday, in Alexandria chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

'Urayqat stated that the negotiations will discuss finalizing the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles, especially with regard to the withdrawal and redeployment of the Israeli forces in the rest of the West Bank. The committee will also finalize

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discussions on the early transfer of power to the authorities in the rest of the West Bank and the subject of the Palestinian detainees and prisoners in Israeli prisons—around 6,000 young men and women.

He said he will meet Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to inform him of the results of the negotiations. He asked for Egypt's support for the Palestinian negotiators.

On the issue of Jerusalem, 'Urayqat said that Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the territories occupied in 1967. Israel should not be allowed to practice any kind of sovereignty over it. It should stop its settlement activities and the expropriation of land in the city.

In his statement, Sa'ib 'Urayqat said that the Arab arena is suffering a weakness—the absence of coordination among the parties concerned in the peace process. These parties should work to restore coordination among themselves.

On the election committee he chairs, 'Urayqat said the committee held its first session today. At the end of the session the Palestinian side handed Danny Rothschild, head of the Israeli delegation, two official working papers on the nature of the elected Palestinian Council and its structure and preparation.

He added that next week he will submit a report to President 'Arafat on the election. At the end of this month training will begin for 5,000 Palestinians, who will supervise 1,500 polling stations in the West Bank, including in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. The council will also have 100 members who will be divided over nine departments topped by the Jerusalem Department.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Islamic Jihad Warns PLO To Free Hamas Men

*NC1608172094 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Aug 16 (AFP)—The hardline Islamic Jihad group on Tuesday [16 August] threatened to carry out "unprecedented" attacks unless PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian authority frees Moslem militants it has held for two days.

"We demand that the Palestinian Authority frees the imprisoned members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] as soon as possible," the Jihad said in a statement sent to AFP.

"Otherwise, we will be forced to step up our military operations in an unprecedented manner, inside the Gaza Strip," it added.

The statement did not make clear if the organisation would attack the Palestinian authority or the Israelis. Some 4,000 settlers live in the Palestinian self-rule strip, under Israeli army protection.

The Palestinian police was still holding four Hamas members on Tuesday after a security sweep in the Gaza Strip following attacks which killed one Israeli civilian and wounded seven.

### Police Spokesman: 'Most' Hamas Members Released

*JN1708101694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] A spokesman for the Palestinian police said yesterday that most of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement members who were detained following the two armed attacks against Israeli civilians in the Gaza Strip have been released.

Hamas official Muhsin Abu-'Aytah said that only four Hamas members are being detained by the Palestinian National Authority.

### Hamas: 'Arafat Protects 'Israeli Occupation'

*JN1608135594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Jordan, has announced at the end of a visit to Damascus that the recent detentions [of Hamas members by the Palestinian National Authority Police] again reveal the role given to 'Arafat and his authority. This role, he added, is protecting Israeli occupation.

### Hamas Rejects Authority's Disarmament Ruling

*MM1608132794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Aug 94 pp 1, 4*

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Hamas Warns Palestinian Authority Against Disarming It"]

[Excerpts] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Asked about the charges made against the detained Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] elements, Major General Nasr Yusuf (Abu-Yusuf), commander of the Palestinian police in the self-rule areas, has said that "the charge made against them is of tampering with stability and security." He added that "the detainees are being held pending investigation, and anyone who proves guilty will be referred to the general prosecution office."

Maj. Gen. Yusuf told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from his residence in Gaza that the Palestinian Authority has decided to disarm civilians, as he put it. He said: "We have given those carrying arms two weeks to obtain licenses for their arms. After that we will begin the disarming process."

Asked about the consequences of such a step, such as Palestinian infighting, he said: "We are ready for all probabilities, whatever the circumstances."

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Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, has urged Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to immediately release its detained leaders and elements and to halt the continued campaign of arrests against Hamas. While the Israeli prime minister has welcomed it, describing it as a "good sign."

Hamas' official spokesman in Jordan warned the Palestinian Authority against disarming the Palestinian people. He said that such a step would leave them disarmed in the face of Zionist massacres. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Ghawshah stressed that his movement will not abandon or surrender its arms. He said that the authority's step to disarm Palestinians serves Israel.

Ghawshah addressed his warning to 'Arafat in particular, saying: "If he insists on moving in that direction, he must take responsibility for all subsequent results. Because the Palestinian people, who have fought for over 75 years, are not prepared to surrender their arms on orders from anyone." [passage omitted]

Asked about Hamas' response to the disarmament step if the Palestinian Authority embarks on it, Ghawshah said: "As far as we in Hamas and the Palestinian people are concerned, we tell the self-rule authority to go to hell. We will not surrender or abandon our arms, because we are keeping them to carry out our jihad operations to fight the settlers and the Zionist enemy, who are committing massacres against our people." He added that "the mujahidin of [Izz-al-Din] al-Qassam [Battalions] and the young men of the intifadah have humiliated the Zionist occupation army. So is it reasonable that the 'Arafat group will be able to succeed in what Rabin and his army could not do? My answer is that these attempts will be doomed to failure."

He said: "But the reality is that 'Arafat and his group have crossed the red lines which could lead to Palestinian infighting. They should be pressed to halt their campaign against the mujahidin. We hope that he will backtrack on these measures and release the detainees."

He described security and sovereignty phrases as grand terms that have no translation in the soil of reality.

### Calls Authority 'Agent Force'

*NC1608185494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Report by Muhammad Bishkar, Tehran Radio correspondent in Beirut—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has affirmed that the detention of Hamas leaders and organizers in the Gaza Strip during the past few days by Palestinian police is considered a dangerous development. These police have now entered the crucial arena after attacking the resistance men among the Palestinian people who are fighting against the occupation.

This confirmation was made by Ibrahim Ghawshah, the official spokesman for the Hamas Movement, in a telephone interview we held with him in his office in Amman a short while ago. Ghawshah asked the Palestinian authorities to immediately release the detainees who are still being held by the Palestinian police. The official Hamas spokesman said the movement will continue its activities against the Zionists and will adhere to its strategic line in this regard. He believes that this line is closely tied to the Islamic principles and the national concept on the liberation of Palestine. He affirmed that any attempts by the Palestinian police to place obstacles before this line or to gather arms from the Palestinian people and the forces that are rejecting settlement with the enemy will make relations with this authority tense and dangerous because the Palestinian people are maintaining this weapon to defend themselves against attacks by the occupation forces and the Zionist settlers.

Answering a question on Hamas' stand regarding the Palestinian authority's insistence on disarming the organization, Ghawshah said:

[Begin Ghawshah recording] If this authority insists on stopping or attempting to stop jihad activities, or if it insists on gathering arms from the people and fighters, this means that it and the Israeli occupation are one and the same thing. They would then have really created an agent force that is similar to the agent force in south Lebanon called the Lahd forces. Then, undoubtedly the battle will become clear. The Palestinian people and their fighting forces would be on one side, and the Zionist occupation, 'Arafat, and his groups would be on the other side. [end recording]

### More Arrests of Hamas Supporters Reported

*TA1708052094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] Palestinian security sources in the Gaza Strip say a member of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] military wing last night surrendered to Yasir 'Arafat's personal guard and has asked for a meeting with 'Arafat. The sources told Qol Yisra'el that at a subsequent meeting with the PLO leader, the Hamas activist gave details about a planned strike by the fundamentalist group against one of the Israeli settlements in the Qatif Bloc in the Gaza Strip. Following this information, the report says, 'Arafat reinforced the Palestinian police units in the region.

The Palestinian police say meanwhile they are continuing their search for those responsible for the shootings of Israelis in the Strip earlier this week.

Last night, Palestinian security forces arrested another three Hamas activists. In all, about 10 Hamas supporters are now in custody.

A Palestinian woman from Hebron was seriously wounded when shots were fired at a bus near the

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al-Duhayshah refugee camp last night. The bus apparently belonged to the East Jerusalem bus company. The woman was hit in the head and rushed to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. An Israeli security source says that Arab terrorists may have opened fire by mistake, thinking they were shooting at Israelis.

### Leading PFLP Figure Returns to Gaza

*TA1608182794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 Aug 94 p 5*

[Text] Gaza—One of the leading and historical symbols of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] returned to the homeland two days ago through the Rafah crossing after an absence of more than 27 years. Muhammad al-Muslimi [Abu-Nidal] is among the first batch of PFLP cadres who returned recently to the homeland. Four others are waiting at the Rafah crossing for permission to return.

In a press statement at his birthplace in the village of Bayt Lahiyah north of Gaza, Abu-Nidal stressed that his return stems from a political decision by the PFLP and falls within framework of the unconditional, legitimate, and sacred right of repatriating all the Palestinian people's sons. He also stressed his rejection of the Gaza-Jericho agreement as it does not respond to the Palestinian people's minimal demands epitomized by the right of return, self- determination, and establishment of a national independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. He called for intensifying and unifying the national efforts by everyone for the sake of achieving these goals.

### DFLP Removes 10 From Leading Groups

*MM1608134494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Aug 94 p 2*

[Unattributed report: "10 Democratic Front Central Committee and Political Bureau Members Dismissed"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In a new development in the crisis shaking the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by Nayif Hawatimah, the Front's Central Committee decided at its meeting the day before yesterday to dismiss 10 Political Bureau and Central Committee members because of political differences related to the nature and status of opposition.

The dismissal decision included Saji Salamah, official in charge of occupied land affairs; Nabil Hamadah (Abu-Adham), in charge of financial affairs; Sa'id 'Abd-al-Hadi, in charge of foreign relations; Yusuf al-Hamalawi, in charge of Gaza Sector affairs; 'Akif al-Hamdallah, in charge of information in the occupied territories; Abu-Ra'd, former commander of the Front's forces in Lebanon; plus four members from the Jordanian Democratic People's Party (Hashd): Bassam Haddadin, member of the Jordanian House of Representatives; George Haddadin, former doyen of Jordanian geologists; Majid al-Muridi, in charge of workers affairs in Hashd; and Mazin al-As'ad, in charge of youth affairs.

### Fatah Official Urges King Not To Visit Jerusalem

*TA1608120794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Aug 94 p 6*

[Report by Rashid Hilal]

[Text] Ramallah—Marwan al-Barghuthi, Fatah's secretary in the West Bank, appealed to King Husayn not to visit Jerusalem on the invitation of Rabin and while it is still under Israeli sovereignty.

In his appeal, al-Barghuthi said that King Husayn will be welcomed when the visit is made on the invitation of Yasir 'Arafat and Jerusalem reverts to Palestinian sovereignty.

Al-Barghuthi's appeal came in the wake of circulated reports on the imminent visit of King Husayn to Jerusalem.

### Delegation to Amman Said 'Failed in its Mission'

*TA1608133094 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 15 Aug 94 pp 1, 15*

[Text] A Palestinian delegation is expected to arrive in the Jordanian capital within the next few hours to meet with Jordanian officials. At the meeting the delegates will discuss a number of issues and relations between the two sides, and arrange a meeting between King Husayn and President Yasir 'Arafat.

Palestinian sources say that the Palestinian delegation which visited Jordan a week ago and then departed for Cairo, failed in its mission. This was clear from the fact that the delegation was neither received by King Husayn nor Crown Prince Hasan, but only by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan.

In its meeting on 13 August, the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] approved the dispatch of a Palestinian delegation to Amman.

### 'Abd-Rabbuh on Jerusalem, Dialogue With Jordan

*JN1708094494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Aug 94 p 26*

[Report by Samir Sa'd al-Din]

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture at the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has said that the PNA is about to reactivate dialogue between the PLO and the PNA on the one hand and the Jordanian Government on the other over bilateral relations and Jerusalem. In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that dialogue can cover new dimensions, especially since dialogue took place in the past between the PLO leadership, which was headquartered in Tunis, and the Jordanian Government. But

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with the transfer of the authority to the national soil, he noted, dialogue can now deal with various practical and tangible bilateral economic, administrative, and political issues.

He said that he hopes that in light of the dialogue begun in Amman a few days ago, the two sides will start meetings on the ministerial level during next few days to discuss urgent matters concerning economic, administrative, and security issues of interest to the two sides, as well as other issues and arrangements. He said that Jerusalem is a major issue regarding which an understanding is being worked out. From our perspective, he said, it is important that Jerusalem once again becomes Palestinian, Islamic, and Christian. He added: Our common concern is that the people, the land, and the holy places become free of the occupation. Any other differences are secondary. We, Palestinians and Jordanians, must not argue about the fate of Jerusalem at a time when we see Jerusalem being threatened through measures on the ground by the occupation authorities. 'Abd-Rabbuh said that there are many issues that can be discussed between the Palestinians and Jordan. He added: We hope that the next meeting on the ministerial level will prepare for a meeting on the leadership level to draw up guidelines for the relationship between the two sides. He added: There is an agreement between us and Jordan on setting up a special commission on Jerusalem. The Palestinian side at the commission is headed by Faysal al-Husayni. He said the commission aims to move at Arab, Islamic, and Christian levels to safeguard the holy places and maintain the special character of Jerusalem, raise its issue at the political level, and to emphasize that it is part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967.

### Subayh Warns Against Inter-Palestinian Conflict

*NC1608144594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestinian permanent delegate to the Arab League and secretary of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has stated that the attack against Israeli settlers in Gaza by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) raises several questions, especially as it comes at a time when the Palestinian Authority is trying to establish itself and solve the problems facing it. He said Israel does not want the Palestinian Authority to succeed at this time.

Speaking to MENA today, Subayh said Israel wants to create an inter-Palestinian conflict, adding that the Palestinians must not fall into this trap. Subayh asked: Why doesn't Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin release Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and his colleagues? He noted that the Israeli settlements, which are to blame for the current problems, were built under the Labor Party government after the 1967 war. Subayh called on Hamas members to coordinate with the Palestinian Authority to help its job succeed and to enable the Palestinians to set up democratic institutions.

Palestinian sources in Cairo expect the PLO and Hamas to begin a dialogue in the coming stage to contain the situation in Gaza and avoid any confrontation among the Palestinian factions. This follows the arrest of 45 Hamas activists by Palestinian policemen following the recent attack on settlers. The same sources have emphasized that such acts give Israel an excuse to be reluctant when it comes to early empowerment in the West Bank and to postponing discussion of Jerusalem. Such acts, the sources added, will harm the Palestinian Authority.

### 'Arafat Jerusalem Remarks, University Rally Noted

*TA1608155094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat says that Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine and visitation requires an invitation by the Palestinian people and its leader. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that at noon 'Arafat spoke to a large group of representatives of the Druze community in Israel, led by Knesset Member Salah Tarif and Shaykh Muwaffaq Tarif.

Hundreds of Palestinian students are rallying in the central hall of the Bi'r Zayt University to establish East Jerusalem as Palestine's capital. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that a manifesto was distributed, declaring that there is no peace without Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, and calling on Jordan to revoke preferred status in Jerusalem.

The Islamic Jihad demands that the Palestinian Authority immediately release the detained Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists and warns that otherwise terrorist activity will increase in the Gaza Strip. The organization's announcement was released in Gaza this afternoon. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Hamas activistf in the Strip specifically demanded the release of Ghanim al-Hashash who was recently released from an Israeli jail due to bad health and who was detained by the Palestinian policemen now. His family members and dozens of residents demonstrated in the center of Rafah yesterday, demanding al-Hashash's release.

### Qaddumi on Right to Resistance, PLO Charter

*JN1708072094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Interview with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi by Salah Salamah on 16 August; from the "Today's Guest" feature—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, the media and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently cited you as calling for abidance by the PLO National Charter, particularly the provisions calling for the elimination of the State of Israel and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. What is the truth about all this?

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[Qaddumi] The PLO Charter is the one we recognize. In 1988, the Palestine National Council [PNC] decided to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of establishing two states—an Arab state and a Jewish state—in accordance with Resolution 181. We comply with this resolution. We cannot amend the charter before Israel's withdrawal from our territory and before signing a comprehensive peace agreement between the Arabs and Israel.

[Salamah] There is an intention to convene the PNC as it is the only legitimate party that is authorized to amend or change the Palestinian National Charter. Do you intend to participate in such a meeting?

[Qaddumi] First of all, it is not easy to convene the PNC while our territory is still occupied. This means we recognize the Israeli occupation. The PNC adopted a decision in 1988, and the issue is clear. The PNC will not convene, and these provisions will not be discussed before the Israelis leave because, as it seems, the Israeli scheme seeks to absorb the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and it is still speaking about a limited self-rule with no foreign relations.

In spite of the agreements that were concluded, Israel procrastinates. We were supposed to be responsible for the crossing points. But, unfortunately, the Israelis brought pressure to bear and succeeded in maintaining their responsibility over the crossing points. Peres was supposed to sign a commitment on Jerusalem with Mr. Holst [former Norwegian foreign minister] on 13 September pledging not to harm the institutions there. He did not sign it. When I went to the United Nations in October, I warned Peres against not signing this commitment. But he signed it after a few days. Yitzhaq Rabin told Christopher that not a single word was said about Jerusalem. On this point, I sent a letter to Christopher, warning him too, that there is a commitment. Peres was forced to announce this commitment.

There were many promises. They were supposed to completely withdraw from Gaza and from Jericho within an area of 345 km as specified under the British mandate in 1932. They did not do so. They were supposed to adopt confidence-building measures, as Baker used to say. They did not take such measures. They were supposed to release the prisoners, but they did not do so. There are also deportees who have not returned. We see them closing Gaza on many occasions. They sealed off Jericho as if they are the masters, and as if there is no agreement. Israel's credibility is nil. The peace process is proceeding along a tortuous road, and we fear that it will end at the end of this road.

[Salamah] Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, the PLO signed separate agreements with Israel. Jordan also has done the same thing. Do you believe that these agreements will realize the demand for a just and comprehensive peace that was adopted at Arab summits and on which basis the involved Arab parties joined the bilateral negotiations with Israel?

[Qaddumi] We were hoping that the negotiations in Washington would continue. Unfortunately, they did not. I know nothing about the Oslo negotiations. The Palestinian leadership had difficult choices. They chose this agreement and approved it. However, not all agreed to it. Out of respect for the PLO institution and for its resolutions, all had to abide by what it decided. This does not mean that one changes one's viewpoints. Yes, I have reservations on all these agreements because, in my opinion, they will never lead to peace. I say this because I am familiar with the Israeli maneuvers, which ultimately will lead to the containment of the West Bank because the West Bank has four distinctive qualities. First, it is a geographic area for settlements. Second, it constitutes a natural border with Jordan, it has subterranean water, and there is of course Jerusalem, which has a historical importance. They did not leave the West Bank. Under the agreement, they want to reposition their forces. These negotiations will last five years, during which time the Arabs will have concluded agreements and will have finished with it. The Palestinians will find themselves alone conducting negotiations with Israel. We did not enter the peace process to negotiate on a bilateral level. We joined the negotiations because of the United States, which can bring pressure to bear on Israel for the sake of its interests in the region and for the sake of political stability in the region. We joined the settlement for all this. We cannot remain alone. We appeal to the United States to stay with us, as does Syria. The United States should be in these negotiations because if we stay alone, this means we will be subjected to increasing pressure caused by the situation of our brothers in the territories.

[Salamah] Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, the self-rule areas are currently witnessing a dispute that has started to surface in the open between the forces led by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which call for pursuing the struggle against Israel, and the Palestinian National Authority. Where could this dispute lead, in your opinion?

[Qaddumi] I do not believe that there is a dispute among these parties. The Palestinians have a right to continue their resistance in the areas from which the enemy has not withdrawn. Security Council Resolution 465 and 476 clearly provide for removing the settlements. The Security Council resolutions also provide that East Jerusalem must return and that its annexation to Israel is rejected. However, Israel is boasting and its leaders are also boasting about Jerusalem. They make pledges to others while it is still under occupation. They want to drive a wedge between the Arab brothers. They only give a small part of Gaza. The settlements are still governed by the Israelis, and some areas are still under their control. They should have walked out of the entire Gaza and from Jericho—that was the deal. However, they lied. Therefore, Israel has no credibility. I am saying there is no dispute. The Palestinians have a right to resist, yes, to resistance, as long as there is an Israeli soldier on the Palestinian land. We, the central government, are the

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point of reference for the [Palestinian] National Authority. We can deny any statement or announcement that violates the resolutions of the PNC and the PLO Executive Committee.

[Salamah] Does this mean that the PLO has the full right to run the affairs of the PNA in the self-rule areas?

[Qaddumi] Yes, this is the law. These are the regulations. We are the political and legislative points of reference.

[Salamah] Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, thank you for this interview with Radio Monte Carlo.

### New Arab Political Movement Reportedly Forming

*TA1608174694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Aug 94 p 5*

[Report by Muhammad Daraghmah]

[Text] Nabulus—AL-QUDS has learned from reliable sources that extensive dialogue and consultations are taking place these days among Arab political forces and figures in Israel to form a new political movement that speaks in the name of the Arab masses.

Among the forces participating in this dialogue are former Knesset Member Muhammad Mi'ari and his followers in the Progressive List for Peace and Equality, the Village Sons Movement, former leaders of the Democratic Front and the Communist Party, and other national and popular figures.

One of the politicians participating in this dialogue said that forming this movement was a result of the peace agreements signed between the PLO, some Arab states, and Israel and their impact on the Arab masses and forces in Israel associated with the PLO's platform.

The speaker, who preferred to remain anonymous, added that the Arab political map in Israel has been in a clear vacuum following the retreat of the communists and their followers and the advance of tribal figures and Israeli parties among these masses.

It has been learned that this dialogue has reached an advanced stage. In addition to conducting a dialogue about the movement's political program and name, the participants are now discussing the details of the new movement's internal regulations and the representation of various forces and figures in its general conference.

Some of the political program's guidelines which the participants are discussing are: Demanding autonomy for the Arabs in Israel, establishing educational and cultural institutions and an Arab university, demanding the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes and properties, endeavoring for a democratic solution to the problem of Jews in the Arab world, and demanding that Israel become a democratic rather than only a Jewish state.

The sources said that the participants are carefully examining the issue of participation in the upcoming Knesset elections under a platform that takes national and pan-Arab interests into account. The sources stressed that the Village Sons Movement changed its approach toward this issue in the wake of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. They said that this matter will be discussed in depth in the movement's general conference that will be held within the next few weeks.

### 'Arafat Approves Publication of New Daily

*TA1608130594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Aug 94 p 7*

[Report by special correspondent]

[Text] Gaza—President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday approved the publication of a comprehensive daily newspaper called FILASTIN [PALESTINE], which will be issued by journalist Tahir Shuraytah.

The minister of justice, attorney Furayh Abu-Middayn, relayed this decision to Tahir Shuraytah, the paper's publisher.

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## Algeria

### President Zeroual Receives al-Qadhdhafi Envoy

*LD1408193294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Aug 94*

[Excerpts] Head of state Liamine Zeroual received al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, personal envoy of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution, this afternoon at the presidential palace. [passage omitted]

Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, envoy of the leader of the Libyan revolution, made the following statement to radio correspondent Zannouba:

[Begin al-Humaydi recording] I had the honor of meeting head of state Liamine Zeroual and conveying to him the greetings, appreciation, and respect of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, his brother the leader of the revolution, .

I have also extended an invitation to him from the Libyan leadership and people to attend the Libyan Arab people's marking of the 25th anniversary of the Great Fatih Revolution. I was pleased that the head of state accepted the invitation.

The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss bilateral, Maghreban, and international issues. The head of state is very keen to and interested in promoting bilateral relations between Algeria and the Great Jamahiriyah and in the progress of the Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### Austria Closes Embassy in Algiers 'Temporarily'

*AU1608123194 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1000 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] The Austrian Embassy in Algiers has been closed temporarily. There is evidently a danger of attacks by Islamic fundamentalists. The embassy is situated in a suburb of Algiers and can be observed directly from the surrounding hills. Guards were shot at twice over the past few weeks. The staff has already returned to Austria.

### U.S. Policy Viewed; Hachani Rumors Denied

*MM1208133094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Aug 94 pp1, 4*

[Reports by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din in Paris and AL-HAYAH bureau in Algiers: "Washington Sees No Justification for Deporting Haddam and Sees No Improvement in Algerian Economy"]

[Text] High-ranking U.S. sources have told AL-HAYAH that the U.S. Administration has taken no action regarding members of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] after the line taken by France calling for restrictions on FIS members living in the United States, especially Anwar Haddam [head of the FIS parliamentary mission abroad]. They said that Haddam's presence in the United States "is legal because he is there on an entry visa that is still valid, and there is no evidence supporting the conflicting reports that he has joined the FIS' extremist and armed faction or any evidence that would make it possible to deport him under U.S. law."

They added that "the Algerian situation is a bigger challenge to France than it is to the United States. France perhaps wants more solidarity from the U.S. Administration but the basis of U.S. policy on Algeria is different. The U.S. presence in Algeria is different from the French presence, and the U.S. Administration is trying to send signals to the current Algerian regime to contact the nonviolent opposition. This may be the difference between the U.S. policy and the French policy that has become more intransigent on the question of dialogue between the Algerian authorities and the FIS, because, in the past, France had contacts with FIS members."

They said that "the U.S. Administration's contacts with FIS members are based on caution and choosing the right time to talk to them, but not holding firm and regular contacts."

They stressed that "it would be a misconception to say that the U.S. policy on Algeria differs completely from that of France. While they are different to some degree, they are close in some ways. The United States would like the current regime in Algeria to save itself and the Algerian Government to restore stability and security in the country through the necessary political and economic reforms, but the current situation in Algeria does not indicate a possibility of that happening, and there is no evidence of progress along that road. The Algerian authorities are preoccupied with the deteriorating security situation and have not made the bold efforts necessary for political and economic reforms. At the end of last week the Algerian leadership decided to hold talks with the opposition parties after these parties lost faith in the possibility of a real dialogue."

The U.S. sources admitted that the lack of economic and political progress was not entirely the fault of the government but the political regime's "weakness" and preoccupation with the security situation resulted in failure to create a dynamism that would give the Algerian people any hope for peaceful change.

They also said that "the U.S. decision to hold contacts with the FIS was made before the current situation developed and it started before President Bill Clinton's administration. As in most cases pertaining to all the Arab states, the United States, to exchange information, holds contacts with all opposition parties at low levels not to support them but to learn about the problems of these states. And it is on this basis that the United States holds contacts with the FIS."

They confirmed that "the U.S. policy on Algeria will continue as it is now, in that it urges the Algerian Government to hold a dialogue with opposition forces including the Islamists who do not advocate violence."

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The sources added that the French were not happy about Haddam's presence on U.S. territory but this is a legal and technical matter and there is no justification for deporting him.

AL-HAYAH understood that Washington believes that French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua is in charge of French policy in Algeria.

Meanwhile, one of the lawyers for Cheik Abdelkader Hachani (chairman of FIS' Provisional Executive Bureau who is in el Serkaji prison in Algeria) has denied rumors about "his participation in the dialogue." He said that "Cheik Abdelkader Hachani has been on hunger strike for two days now in protest against the fact that he has been in prison for two years without trial." Hachani staged his first hunger strike last Ramadan. According to press reports, Hachani had previously sent a letter to the justice minister asking him to intervene in favor of a trial, and he received "promises" from official quarters but they were not kept.

## Zeroual Addresses Governors Conference

*LD1608192694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Address by President Liamine Zeroual at the closing session of a governors conference in Algiers on 16 August—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful. Mr. Prime Minister, members of the government, gentlemen: I am pleased to meet you today at this important two-day gathering at which all the governors of our country have been present. This gathering acquires special significance in the present conditions. Actually, through its defined goals, your meeting forms a major event in the course of national revival, which is mobilizing all our energies.

Undoubtedly, local communities form a favorable tool for embodying the goals the country must achieve during the transitional period. I take advantage of this opportunity to laud the loyal nationalists, and there are many of them, including the state cadres, wherever they may be, who are working for reforming the situation in the country with all loyalty and courage.

Gentlemen, ladies: For more than two decades, our country was able to give substance to important achievements in the framework of a policy of genuine decentralization in relation to our territory. Indeed, this policy of decentralization enabled us to manage huge areas of our national territory that could not adapt to a type of management founded on the central monopolization of power. This policy also permitted importance to be given to efforts to allow Algeria to catch up with the modern advanced nations, in accordance with the basic principles of the glorious November revolution, and in response to the deep aspirations of our society for a national project undertaken and realized by the people. Regrettably, the retreat from the management and development policy based on local authorities has proved counterproductive and has considerably facilitated the emergence of the problems and difficulties faced by Algeria.

As a result of the marginalization and deviation of the local communities' institutions, a desirable channel of communication was cut between our people and their state. The withdrawal of initiatives from these institutions also explains to a large extent the wrong choices from which the investment effort suffered, as well as the neglect of the citizens' affairs. Therefore, unsuitable achievements dominated the majority of our capabilities and replaced other achievements awaited by our people, who were suffering from a shortage of means to meet their social needs, including the simplest and most essential. Moreover, having been pushed away from their natural role, local institutions became a sanctuary and a tool for nepotism, tribalism, and vested interests.

All of these serious deviations experienced by the local authorities while in constant contact with society had a very significant impact on the people's loss of trust in their administration. This abnormal situation and the subsequent repeated grievances had negative impacts which were manifested in diminishing hope among our people and sowing the seeds of despair and frustration in the hearts of our youth.

Ladies and gentlemen: As we bluntly assess the outcome of the mistakes that were made and the deviation that took place in this respect, we are, at the same time, defining what should be done to correct and straighten this unnatural situation. I have the opportunity, at this meeting, to recall the principles and goals of the new endeavor we intend to promote. In the first place, a normal situation should be created for the local authorities as they represent the state throughout the national territories.

In this context, the governor in particular and also the head of department and the municipal executive delegate must fully discharge their respective duties as a public authority. Likewise, the state assumes its full responsibility to provide them with the necessary means to discharge these tasks. At the same time, those who bear these responsibilities will be constantly brought to account for their activities and the achievements they are expected to realize. In the second place, the local institutions must be at the service of citizens in an administration serving the citizens, an administration that opens up its doors to citizens and listens to them. This requires a clean break with the scourges of bureaucracy, nepotism, and other undeserved privileges.

In the third place, throughout this period, no one who does not satisfy the conditions of competence, impartiality, concern, and devotion to the homeland should from now on and once and for all assume the responsibility of administering local authorities. Our country is

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rich in qualified cadres who have the capability and competence to serve the nation in the most appropriate manner.

Therefore, we must employ this live force and use it in the best possible way in the comprehensive national promotion operations. In this respect, the implementation of my special instructions on consolidating the restructuring of our local communities should be speeded up, particularly the restructuring of our municipalities. In addition to a qualitative contribution to increasing the output of municipal administration, this measure is bound to create a good number of jobs for our youth who have university degrees and who are currently suffering unemployment.

In the fourth place, the local authorities must be watchful over the materialization of the government program for the transitional period within its defined timetables. This program, which takes into consideration the pressures of the economic crisis through which our country is passing and the urgent needs of our citizens, has defined the priority sectors. These concern, in particular, agriculture, housing, trade, and small and medium-size institutions. Addressing these priority sectors is bound to reduce the tensions resulting from certain needs of the citizen, especially in the fields of housing and employment.

Therefore, gentlemen, as governors you are asked to shoulder the heavy responsibility of supervising the success of this program on the ground. You should also undertake the important responsibility of working for the realization of national solidarity and social justice. This preoccupation should be the principle factor in all your actions and decisions. In this respect, you should be especially watchful over the success of the new system of social fabric, which we must build without delay. You must also be watchful over the promotion of youth employment to which I, personally, attach great importance.

In the fifth place, the local communities that crystallize our sincere resolve should involve the citizens in the running of their destiny and contribute to the success of the economic reforms.

The regional administration should encourage private initiative with the aim of freeing the capabilities of our society through support for the eligible private institutions which are capable of competition. It also has to enlist massive energies to contribute to meeting the needs of the citizen, to creating working posts, and consolidating the national development course.

At the same time, the local authorities, given their direct contact with the population, must strive to explain the exact meaning of the economic reforms aimed at reviving growth on sound foundations. Finally, the local authorities must now start preparing for effectively being in charge of the elections that will be held as soon as the conditions are appropriate for the free expression of the choice of our citizens in all sovereignty. Therefore, the review of civil status and the preparation of new electoral lists, as well as the strengthening of the presence and authority of the state throughout all the national territory, are all matters that have priority, together with the range of the necessary measures to realize this objective. All these fresh efforts designed to respond to the current requirements of our country and which are within our reach will undoubtedly be more decisive and more intense, together with the start of administrative reform.

This administrative reform, which constitutes an axiomatic necessity, will enable us to shape the rules, mechanisms, and programs of our national administration as a whole in order to improve its effectiveness and enable it to adapt to our new national environment. The administrative reform remains a necessary action to complete the reforms and the economic restructuring we have started.

Here I would like to emphasize very strongly the necessity for an immediate start of the administrative reform process, because it is a difficult and complex process and needs patience and persistence. At the same time, I would once again like to ask members of the government to come closer to the local authorities and to continue their tours throughout the entire country. These tours should be an opportunity for making tangible decisions. They should also be adopted as a regular government practice and become a commendable tradition within our new code of practice. In addition to the fact that these visits facilitate direct listening to citizens and allow control of the realization of programs, they also constitute a permanent support on the part of the government for the local authorities, as well as an opportunity to settle the problems faced by these authorities on the ground.

Gentlemen, ladies: There is no doubt that thanks to such efforts the government will be able to prove that citizens are the subject of its attention in all sincerity and away from demagogic campaigns. These citizens are waiting for an end to injustice, opportunism, and tribal practices. This is the sole way to restore confidence and hope to our citizens. I am convinced that, thanks to this confidence and hope, there will be a mobilization of our people to defend their heritage, which is today the target of the subversive conspiracy hatched by the enemies of the nation and the homeland. Thus this mobilization will consolidate the brave action being led by our security forces to eliminate terrorism and violence in our country once and for all.

Ladies and gentlemen, because this mobilization requires the participation of all Algerians concerned about the interests of our homeland, I did not spare any effort in promoting the national dialogue. Following the appeal that I renewed on 4 July for a resumption of dialogue, a few days ago I extended an invitation to the political parties with a view to meeting them once again.

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I hope that this dialogue, which should be characterized by continuity and total transparency, will quickly lead to the results the entire nation is waiting for. This dialogue itself will enable us to solve the crisis that concerns the Algerians and will find its solution in Algeria and among the Algerians and no one else. It is a dialogue within the framework of respect of the Constitution and laws and the abandonment of violence. A dialogue in the service of the democratic option, which has become an irreversible accomplishment, and characterized by respect for our values and our national constants. A dialogue for the purpose of eliminating violence, which has drowned the Algerian nation in sorrows and pains, and for consolidating national unity.

It is a dialogue that opens up the road to holding the elections that are the objective of the transitional phase, a dialogue to which everyone should define his attitude before the people and before history. Gentlemen, ladies: Algeria is today paying a high price for the mistakes committed on behalf of the people by the extremists who are standing up against their nation. The hands of treachery and perfidy are assassinating our citizens and destroying our schools and industries. Our entire national heritage has become a target of criminal and crazy subversion. Even our foreign guests have not been spared these destructive acts, which are in contradiction of our spiritual and cultural values. Nothing justifies these destructive practices, let alone Islam, which is our religion, and its graceful commandments, which are in contradiction of all this.

Ladies and gentlemen, no doubt a situation like this imposes upon us all the obligation to adhere to high awareness and a spirit of responsibility and to cast aside partisan considerations in order to close the ranks of honest patriots, for the sake of the protection and safe keeping of Algeria. Today it has become more than an urgent necessity. Therefore, it is time that the national political class should shoulder its full responsibility, unless, however, it were opting for a suicidal option where democracy is the first victim.

Democracy is a tradition, a tradition that proceeds from dialogue first unless democracy was meant to be merely an empty slogan. Democracy is a commitment undertaken first and foremost to face up to ideas and conceptions; however, it is utterly impossible to demand democracy in order to impose the project of a certain group—the Algerian people alone have the right to decide on this. This is the democracy we want to promote through dialogue in the service of the people, the interests of whom we bear the responsibility of defending. This is the task we have agreed to shoulder as a transitional authority, and we will shoulder it fully, with God's help.

Because we took it upon ourselves to confront a crisis that we were not responsible for, we reject any attempt to make us responsible for the effects of the past, whether distant or recent. We endeavor with all determination to achieve an effective break with the past and the types of behavior that characterized it. History and the people will record the stances of everyone toward facing this painful ordeal from which the Algerian nation is suffering. It is not possible for any justification or prejudgement to exempt anyone from the judgement of the people and history.

The history of people is characterized by the decisive moments where the sons of the one nation stand so as to decide their national destiny. The Algerian people stand in front of one of those moments where the future of the Algerian nation will be defined. This nation rightly deserves to rise up to the level of strong and prosperous nations in accordance with the supreme values for which the heroic martyrs of 1 November sacrificed themselves and which they left as a trust in our hands and a common heritage for the entire Algerian people. Today, to serve this heritage it is imperative for the Algerian nation as a whole to take the necessary leap to save the nation. Hold fast all together by the rope God stretches out for you and be not divided among yourselves [Koranic verse]. God has spoken the truth.

Glory and eternity to our faithful martyrs. Long live Algeria. Peace and God's almighty compassion be upon you. [applause]

### Journalist Reportedly Released by Kidnappers

*LD1608114994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] Information sources reported today that journalist Brahim Taouchichet has been released by his kidnappers. Taouchichet was kidnapped the day before yesterday outside the Tahar Djaout press center in the capital. [passage omitted]

### Four Parties Reportedly Agree to Talks

*LD1608225094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Well-informed sources have said that the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, the Movement for Islamic Society-HAMAS, the Islamic Movement Ennahda, and the Algerian Party for Renewal have confirmed their participation in the dialogue conference scheduled for next Sunday [21 August]. It has also been learned from the same source that the four parties have sent the names of their representatives to the conference to the Presidency.

The Front for National Liberation and the Front for Socialist forces have yet to make their stance public on this new invitation for dialogue, called for by President Liamine Zeroual, to find a way out of the current political crisis. However, the Ettahadi Movement and the Rally for Culture and Democracy have announced their boycott of the next round of national dialogue.

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### Results of Security Operations Reported

#### 17 'Eliminated' 5-8 Aug

*LD1308202894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Aug 94*

[Text] The security services announced today that its forces had eliminated 17 terrorists between 5-8 August in the province of the capital Algiers, Bou Merdes, Tizi Ouzou, and Batna. The security forces also announced the recovery of a significant number of arms. This was announced by the security services.

#### 22 Killed 14-16 Aug

*LD1608193294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] A security services statement said that 22 terrorists were killed and a number of others were arrested during the past three days in Tipaza, Blida, Boumerdes, Jijel, Bordj Bou Arreridj, and the capital Algiers. This took place during search operations in these provinces, in which a quantity of weapons was recovered.

## Egypt

### Israeli Foreign Minister Peres Visits

#### Arrives in Alexandria

*NC1708102294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1004 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] Alexandria, 17 Aug (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres arrived at Alexandria's Al-Nuzhah International Airport today. He was accompanied by members of the Israeli delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, which will convene in Alexandria later today. The delegation includes Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, the Israeli Foreign Ministry director general, and the coordinator of government activities in the occupied territories.

#### Received by Mubarak

*NC1708113194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] Alexandria, 17 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur, Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, and Israeli Ambassador to Cairo David Sultan also attended the meeting.

### Sha'th, Palestinian Delegation Arrive for Talks

*NC1708095594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] Rafah, 17 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], and Faysal al-Husayni, the PNA minister in charge of the Jerusalem issue, arrived in Rafah this morning on their way to Alexandria, where they will meet President Husni Mubarak this afternoon.

Dr. Sha'th is also expected to meet Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to discuss the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and ways of boosting the talks. The talks will also deal with extending the self-rule area, transferring authority over health, tourism, social affairs, culture, and tax affairs to the Palestinians, and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Dr. Sha'th said that one of the main topics to be discussed deals with specifying a date for holding legislative elections in Gaza and the West Bank.

### Sidqi Reads Mubarak Message to Islamic Parley

*NC1608141694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1052 GMT 16 Aug 94*

["Text" of message by President Husni Mubarak read by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi at the opening session of the Sixth General Conference of the Higher Islamic Affairs Council in Alexandria on 16 August]

[Text] Alexandria, 16 Aug (MENA)—In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We the Muslims do not live on an island isolated from the world's nations and peoples. We remain a bright spot in humanity's march in its constant quest for progress, knowledge, and justice. Toward all this and throughout history we have made a great contribution, something to which every fair-minded person testifies. If some of our youth are unaware of Islam's many bright spots, which ought to fill their hearts with confidence and pride, duty and responsibility dictate that we speak frankly and sincerely so that we may correct our march, remove the obstacles before it, and open up for future generations vistas of a future that is brighter, more secure, and more stable and prosperous.

Our Islamic nation is facing problems and challenges requiring all of us to adopt a firm and honest stance. Foremost of these problems and challenges are:

1. Our nation's stamina, which is great, but our local and regional conflicts divert us from seeing the great truth that has made us a great nation in the eyes of Almighty God and in the eyes of peoples. I do not want to set out a long list of the current conflicts between Arab countries or between Islamic nations. These conflicts sap energy, scatter efforts, and divert attention from the real issues.

2. Complicated historical conditions have diverted us from the march of renaissance, making us part of the so-called Third World, a term used to reflect our relative backwardness in the fields of production, industry, and education. Most of our nations now depend on other

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nations to provide them with food, clothing, medicine, and weapons with which to defend their independence.

A serious defect has occurred in many Muslims' concept of their religion. They have become preoccupied with trivialities instead of focusing on basic issues. They have forgotten the true objectives and the supreme interests that Islam has come to uphold and sponsor. In the middle of this breakdown Islam has been presented in several instances as a call for adversity, hardship, and harassment of people. In calling for religion, some have even advocated the use of violence and coercion.

This defect has created an unfair image of Islam and the Muslims such that some people imagine that Islam is an obstacle to progress and that the Muslims are advocates of backwardness and that they deride the rights of others. Thus the Muslims are strangers to humanity's modern march and have no role to play in establishing peace, justice, and respect for human rights.

Let me tell you frankly and clearly that the scholars shoulder a great responsibility in this age in which cultures meet and in which the doors are wide open to civilized dialogue followed up by millions through the various media services. The knowledge you are entrusted to carry dictates that you affirm the following during the conference:

First: All of us—rulers, subjects, politicians, and scholars—must rise above selfish motives and illusions of isolation. We must realize that unifying and coordinating our efforts is the only road to protecting our various countries and regimes.

Second: Call without hesitation or compliments for the need to base our lives on knowledge and to teach the entire generation that the path of knowledge is the only path that leads to success. Belief in transcendental issues and reliance on God are not enough under Islam. They must be complimented by knowledge, which reveals God's laws in the universe, teaches believers how to reason, and shows the world that those who have knowledge cannot be equal to those who don't.

Third: Change immediately, and for the whole world, the image that some parties have depicted of Islam so that the entire world might realize that Islam is a blessing from God to his creation, that it is a call for justice, right, and equality, that its message to all humanity is to get together and cooperate for the good of mankind, that it does not force people to believe, and that its tolerance leaves room for those who agree or disagree.

O honorable ulema:

I do not want to take up much of your time but let me again remind you that we do not live alone in this world. It is our duty to cooperate with other peoples and nations to seek good, justice, and peace and to promote the noble human values pronounced by God's prophets and messengers. Let me also remind you that the world around us is changing and it is the ulema's duty to strive to constantly keep up with this tremendous development. Each age has its own problems so each age must have its own jurisprudence that can provide relief for the people, serve their interests, and defend Islam and the Muslims against the wave of distortion preventing interaction between Muslims and the rest of the world, thus denying the world the chance to benefit from the Muslims' contribution to straightening out the civilization of the age and guiding it with the values of good, justice, and peace.

I welcome you again to Egypt, which, God willing, will continue to embrace any sincere efforts to serve Islam and the Muslims, open the doors of hope for our nation, lead it to progress and renaissance, and tell the world again that Islam is a message of justice and right and that Muslims extend their hands in amity and with a desire for all peoples to cooperate. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

## Al-Azhar Demands Revision of ICPD Action Plan

*NC1708110094 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Aug 94 p 7*

["Text" of statement issued by al-Azhar's Islamic Research Council in Cairo on 10 August]

[Text] The United Nations is about to hold its International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] in Cairo in September 1994 to discuss a draft program of action prepared earlier. In part, the program touches on issues pertaining to rules governing the family, marital and extramarital relations, the right to abortion, and adolescents' right to have sex.

A reading of the draft program reveals an abundance of loose expressions, imprecise terms, and newfangled definitions indicating that the program tends toward principles that run counter to those Islam has established for the family and condones abortion in cases other than those approved by Islamic shari'ah. It also seeks to protect homosexual as well as heterosexual relationships outside the framework of a legitimate marriage. This undermines the values revered by all heavenly religions and promotes fornication and all the pernicious diseases transmitted by sexual contact.

Out of its responsibility to promote the call to the faith wisely and through good counselling and to voice its views on social and other matters, the Islamic Research Council met on Thursday, 26 Safar 1415 Hijrah, corresponding to 4 August 1994, to consider the aforementioned program of action and decided to reiterate the following facts:

First, on the family:

Islam makes the family the source of peacefulness, amity, and tolerance. It equalizes man and woman, who are equal in humanity, gives each of them the right to start and maintain a marriage as long as they observe the limits God has established, and advises them to have

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patience whenever they have to put up with what they dislike. Islam orders us to raise children with faith in God, His wisdom, and His will. This faith is the shield that safeguards each individual and guides his steps from childhood to old age. Islam makes man the keeper of the family, who provides for its needs, protects its youngsters, and teaches them to perform their prayers in order to guard them against indecent conduct and sin and protect them from going astray as a result of their lack of experience in a world full of temptations.

These essentials undoubtedly run counter to Principle 10 of the program of action, which questions the family as the basis of society. They also conflict with the demand on parents to tolerate premarital sex among adolescents and approve of it as a secret in which none of them has the right to interfere. This would tempt teenagers to follow their instincts and accordingly make them vulnerable to the pernicious diseases that are transmitted by sexual contact.

Second, on sexual relationships:

Islam does not approve of any sexual relationship outside a legitimate marriage between a man and a woman, the marriage that must meet particular conditions to be fruitful. Islam authorizes the severest of punishments for fornication and homosexuality, even if committed by mutually consenting adults. It also prohibits activity leading to encounters, such as private meetings between a man and a woman and immoral mixing of sexes. Indeed Islam orders both males and females to refrain from looking at each other amorously so that they may not be driven into temptation and stray from the right path. All this because Islam, like all divine religions, is eager to stabilize society and lead it on the right course toward strength and medical, sociological, and psychological immunity.

Any relationship other than marriage, such as those mentioned in the fifth paragraph of the fifth article of the plan, contradicts Islam. So does the call for unmarried individuals to enjoy a satisfactory sexual life, as the seventh article points out in its first and second paragraphs, and the call for sexual and pregnancy services—including family planning—to be made available to everybody without the need for marriage, as the seventh article suggests in its third, fourth, sixth, and eighth paragraphs.

Third, on abortion:

The Islamic Research Council of the holy al-Azhar has concluded that abortion is prohibited, "even if pregnancy is a result of adultery or rape," unless it is medically necessary to save the life of the mother. This is because the mother is the basis and already has an independent life with rights and duties. The mother must not be sacrificed for an embryo that has not yet been granted independent life. In this case the embryo is, in effect, part of the mother, like her other organs. Allowing abortion in any other case violates the law of Islam, even if done in the name of family planning, healthy pregnancy, or healthy sex.

That the Islamic Research Council mentioned the above three issues in particular does not mean that the plan does not violate other points of the shari'ah. It contains terms that suggest unacceptable things, such as equality between males and females for inheritance rights, as mentioned in Paragraph 17 of the Article 4, and compelling governments and nongovernmental organizations to raise the minimum age for marriage while securing alternatives to early marriages, as mentioned in the Paragraph 22 of Article 4, which could be understood as a call for facilitating prostitution.

The Islamic Research Council calls on the conferring states to amend the wording of the plan and make its terms more concise so that they do not include—even in their interpretation—a violation of what Islamic shari'ah has ordered, what all divine laws have urged, and what the values of Islamic nations throughout the ages have established.

In particular, the plan's seventh article, with its various paragraphs, draws attention. It uses particular terms and phrases, which are then used throughout the plan, that need to be changed so that the wording can be controlled and made more succinct. In this regard the council stresses that it rejects anything that violates Islamic shari'ah and recommends that reservations be expressed about such things so that the Islamic nation will be committed to none of them.

## Morocco

### Prime Minister Filali on Current Issues

*LD1208142394 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Aug 94*

[Interview with Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali by Mohamed Larbi Messari, secretary general of the national trade union of the Moroccan press; Abdelhafid Rouissi, director of LE MATIN; and Mohamed Mouaddden, head of Moroccan television's news department, moderated by Fatima Oukili at Filali's Rabat residence; on the "Here and There" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Oukili] Good evening. Welcome to the "Here and There" program. Before any introduction one can ask why this program? Why at this circumstance, and what is its aim? We can say straight away that this program is aiming at communicating between citizens and officials. [passage omitted]

Today, and for the first time in the history of Morocco, the prime minister is going to talk to the citizens to explain his program and the way he intends to work after two months of occupying the premiership. [passage omitted]

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Morocco is said to be experiencing a political crisis. This point of view is based on the fact that the government does not represent the majority in the parliament. Is it the case for Morocco that such a crisis situation is the time to invent new politics?

[Filali] [passage omitted] I do not believe Morocco is in a political crisis. Morocco like several other countries has a lot of questions to answer. When we talk about a political crisis this should mean disputes, a crisis of power. When I say questions I mean to say that the whole of the world has undergone radical change since the beginning of the nineties. [passage omitted]

We in Morocco were not one of those countries. The policy of His Majesty the King was always based on balance, moderation, realism, and the defense of Morocco's fundamental interests. Naturally the change in the world political arena had its impact in Morocco, but definitely not on the same scale as those other countries.

The questions we have are about the future of this new world currently in the process of formation, with new ideologies including the notions of democracy and the respect of human rights etc. So Morocco needs to find the suitable and proper answers to all these questions. We are not in a political crisis. The man who is leading this country is a king with outstanding experience both in managing Morocco's internal affairs and its foreign policy. There are also sound institutions in this country, and political pluralism is nothing new. Our institutions are well aware of the country's problems. [passage omitted]

[Messari] Prime Minister, if you reject the term crisis, we could say that there are a number of issues that have not been dealt with and questions that have not been answered. You have opted for dialogue as a strategy of work and held dialogue with political parties, employers, and other social partners. You also opened the file of education and developed the scope of dialogue in the parliament. What is your impression of this dialogue you have started with the civil society, after two months in the post of prime minister?

[Filali] This is a good question. These contacts with political parties made it clear to me and to the parties themselves that there are new points of view and changes regarding the political issues and problems in the Moroccan society. I believe that this dialogue was positive, we have reached a view, I cannot say that it covered all the issues, but it covered many of the main issues concerning at this stage. There is an awareness among all of us that it is high time we stopped outbidding and hollow discourse, and dealt with the problems with a spirit of Moroccan reality within the limits of the resources and means available to us at this stage. I think this is positive in itself. The same goes for the national trade unions. [passage omitted]

The government arrived at the point of an agreement with the trade unions that the dialogue should be permanent and continuous. We will all try to arrive at solutions for social problems in ways that are sound through consensus between the government and trade union organizations.

[Oukili] But in general news did not get to the public so how can we say that they can assess the news or not? Also it is not always possible to find the person in the right place—I mean a member of the government—to give us the answer to our questions. Have you not considered having an official spokesman so that when something is issued by the government they can inform the public?

[Filali] This point involves several issues. First, it is true that we have certainly considered the need for a government spokesman. But there was also a shortcoming on the side of the press. Frankly, the press was absent. For example, it is my experience as foreign minister for ten years that there has been a national union for the Moroccan press which is now led by Larbi Messari. Always...[changes thought] Sometimes the press used to ask for a meeting to deal with problems and issues related to foreign policy and often, unfortunately, things were written in the newspapers which did not have even, as we say in Arabic, a head or a leg were completely unfounded.

Some people, journalists, in Rabat, in Casablanca, might hear a rumor. There is no objection to them telephoning to ask an official who could tell them whether this news is true or false or half true. At least this would give you the right path. In addition, I would say to them that my office is always open. Therefore to overcome this shortcoming the press should change their way of working.

[Oukili] A new tradition must be created. Mr. Rouissi has a question.

[Rouissi] Excuse me your excellency the minister, I would like to go back to the first question. After his majesty the king appointed you as head of the new government, the new thing with regard to consultations with political parties is that these consultations are not about forming the government. What are the objectives which made you enter these consultations and what is the the aim of the latter? Could you possibly give us now an assessment of the political atmosphere in Morocco, particularly after the King's pardon and after we closed what was called the file of political prisoners?

[Filali] I believe that the dialogue which has taken place with the political parties was first of all because there was, in all frankness, tension in Morocco and his majesty's wish was that this atmosphere should change. Thank God, we can now say that the atmosphere has changed and there is now serenity in public opinion and in the circles of political parties. [passage omitted] I believe that we have created a new atmosphere which made this dialogue a comprehensive and continuing one which never stops with political parties and trade unions as well.

[Mouadden] Mr. Filali, a short while ago you spoke of a national coalition government. I would like to give us

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your view of such a coalition and what would be parliament's relations with the coalition?

[Filali] It has not yet become clear on what this coalition government will be based. As you must have noticed, the national press representing the parties have not yet touched on this issue. So it is hard for one to speculate on what the basis of this coalition will be and how it will deal with the parliament. The main thing is that dialogue is in progress to reach this goal [the coalition].

[Oukili] So you see dialogue as the basis. Anyway we move now to the second theme in this debate, that is the social and economic file. It was stated in the government's statement to parliament that the problem is one of the way public affairs are managed and that bureaucracy, corruption, illiteracy, and unemployment must be fought. All these mean several fronts of confrontation. What are the means to be used apart from the good intentions expressed thus far?

[Filali] [passage omitted] The government's strategy is based on the priorities set out in the statement presented to the House of Representatives. This is a strategy regarding the administration, unemployment, and economic growth which naturally includes agriculture, public works and so on. [passage omitted]

[Mouaddin] Let us stay in the same subject Mr Prime Minister, rumors have asserted that revenues for the treasury from the privatization program were not enough; and therefore, the privatization program should be sped up. Does this mean more companies are going to be added to the list of those companies which are already on the list of privatization?

[Filali] No. I am convinced that the companies that are on the list...

[Mouadden, interrupting] What about the electricity companies?

[Filali] Electricity companies are something else. We are talking here about those companies that are being offered for sale to the private sector; nothing has changed about their sale. I believe their privatization will take place under appropriate and suitable circumstances. The revenues from such sales will be received by the end of this year, God willing. Thus, the anticipated revenue of 3.5 billion [Moroccan dirhams] from their sale will be in the state treasury. However, there is one condition in all that. The bill of privatization has stipulated that such revenues should be used for further investments and that is natural. The companies offered for sale to the Moroccan or foreign private sector are economic institutions; therefore, revenues from their sale should not finance the state's administration. They should be used for further management. Nonetheless, we do not think privatization will be facing any problems this year or next year. [passage omitted]

[Oukili] We also should definitely discuss Morocco's foreign policy. One of the main points in the government's statement is Morocco's relations with the European Union [EU]. Three issues are problematic in Morocco's relations with the EU, these are immigration, trade exchange, and fundamentalism. We are very much concerned with immigration and trade exchange. The Maastricht Treaty stipulated that doors must be closed to people and goods. Let's suppose our foreign and cooperation minister is on a tour in the EU states with which we have these tense relations. What are the means he should use to ensure that these two issues of this magnitude would be rediscussed? We should of course bear in mind Europe's general policy and each country's own internal policy.

[Filali] Our relations with Europe are known. We always wanted and endeavored to have strong political and economic ties with Europe. [passage omitted] Nevertheless, at this stage, Moroccan-European relations are going through a crisis. I mean that Europeans do not understand our conditions and circumstances. They are still living under the image of Morocco's relations with Europe from, let's say, 1976. Then, after Spain and Portugal joined the EU, conditions changed and we had countries within the EU that had conflicting interests with Morocco's.

[Oukili] What kind of interests, political or economic?

[Filali] Economic interests before everything else. Europe adopted the so-called Mediterranean policy, which we rejected from the very beginning. I mean since Spain joined the EU in 1986. This stance of ours, which we stuck to, eventually made them come to the conclusion that they had to make some new arrangements with Morocco.

In fact there have been positive contacts with officials from countries that have strong ties with Morocco or with the whole union led by Mr Delors. Unfortunately, we only heard a lot of talk regarding the status of Morocco's relations with the EU. Especially on the level of the European summit. We were surprised at the recent suggestions put forward to Morocco by the EU regarding the framework for new relations. I mean there is nothing new but talk regarding the content of the agreement including those proposals. As everybody knows we rejected it.

Unfortunately, 57 percent of our trade exchange and relations are with the EU. That is why back in 1986 I said in parliament that this is not a sound state of affairs for Morocco's trade activities. I do not mean we should not have good trade relations with Europe, but we will one day become their trade prisoners. We should bear in mind that they have their own interests and now they have economic problems and problems of structure. We therefore should not blame them all the time. That is why, the other day in Casablanca, I told the people of the private sector they should start thinking of and looking for alternative markets; there are known and available resources. During the signing in Marrakech of the GATT agreement, we found out there are other countries willing to have considerable trade exchange with Morocco. That

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is why we should play this card and that is why we rejected these EU proposals.

The most important thing in our trade exchange with the EU is agriculture. We cannot let our agriculture and its products down. We will defend our agriculture with all the means we have. It was the EU that encouraged a number of investments in agriculture in Morocco at a time when they were in need of our products. They cannot come today and say no more tomatoes, for example; this is unacceptable.

[Oukili] You said we are going to defend our agriculture. They would say the same thing.

[Filali] That is logical, but you should know that neither Belgium nor Holland used to produce tomatoes, and now Belgium is selling France more tomatoes than we sell to France.

I am wondering, these developed countries are, on the one hand, saying they want to help developing countries. Then they come and compete with them in farming tomatoes, which is a Mediterranean agriculture, not one of the North Sea.

[Rouissi] Mr. Prime Minister, between 31 October and 1 November, Casablanca is to host an important economic conference involving North Africa and the Middle East. As Moroccans, we should value this conference as it reflects the weight of our country worldwide. In your opinion to what extent could this conference play a distinguished role in bolstering peace in the Middle East? And could we dream of an important event which could lead to the birth of an important economic block given the important resources in the Middle East and North Africa?

[Filali] First of all, this conference should give every Moroccan the firm conviction that our country has a good reputation abroad. It has been only four months since the GATT conference was held in Morocco, now we have received the application to host this economic summit on the economic development in North Africa and the Middle East. The very important side of this event is that Morocco should use this opportunity. This conference is to discuss issues of development not only on a governmental level, but there will also be participants from private sectors on the highest level in the world. I do not think that there would be in the near future another more suitable opportunity either for the Moroccan Government and the Moroccan private sector to try to find solutions to all Morocco's problems. We have set up a committee which has already started preparing a list of these problems to be submitted to this summit. Our private sector should seize this opportunity and try to intensify its contacts with international firms and establishments which will be attending Casablanca's conference. [passage omitted]

[Messari] I have a question on the national cause. I now seems that the foes do not want a referendum; although, we want to reach a solution based upon international legality. A number of obstacles are being created by the foes who are trying to involve the OAU in the problem. What is new about the obstacles which have been created by attempts to involve the Organization of African Unity?

[Filali] Let us talk with frankness about this problem. As far as we are concerned, the OAU does no longer exist. As they say in French it has become—an infection.

Where is the organization which we used to know, an organization for unity? Where is the organization which we know very well, to whose charter we were original signatories?

Let us look back at the development of the situation in Africa in the past five years to see whether this organization has done anything and has made any contribution? It has played no role in Liberia, where there was fighting and people were dying in the thousands every day, or in Rwanda, where the situation is extremely bad at the human and moral levels.

Besides, have you heard anything about the secretary general of this organization and whether he has made any initiative lately to resolve those problems. [passage omitted]

As far as we are concerned, our position is clear; it is based upon our respect of the things to which we have agreed, i.e. the referendum and how it should be held. We have agreed upon a number of formulae on this matter with the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council. The foes, as you have said, have tried to make problems,but at the end they had to accept them.

However, they have started to create more problems. Undoubtedly you have heard a statement made by someone called Bachir Mustapha Sayed [Saharan foreign minister] who asserted that the UN secretary general had betrayed them. No one can be more stupid than someone who says something like this. How can they claim he had betrayed them? They can only do so if he had made an agreement with them and then retracted it or if he was one of their associates but he betrayed them. [laughing] This can only be asserted by someone who is really stupid, who says that the UN secretary general has betrayed him and has taken up the Moroccan position. No, he has not done this. What he has done is take up the position agreed by everyone since 1988.

[Mouadden] Mr. Prime Minister, our talk on the Moroccan Sahara leads us to talk about Ceuta and Melilla. What is the government's position on the latest developments, since some Spanish authorities are determined to give autonomy to the two occupied cities.

[Filali] I think the government's position is known in that field. A month ago, we confirmed in parliament and his majesty also stressed in his speech that the only solution is to retrieve the two cities to their motherland.

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It is not reasonable that while Spain struggles to regain Gibraltar, it says that Ceuta and Melilla are Spanish. That is unacceptable, neither rationally nor logically.

Naturally, we want to have ties which are better than strong with Spain. Proof is that we have an important agreement that was announced here in Rabat in the presence of Juan Carlos and the Spanish prime minister. There was a summit meeting last year in Madrid and the next summit will be here in November in Rabat. Because of that, our position is that the main point is to bolster Moroccan-Spanish ties—firstly because we are neighbors. Unfortunately, as neighbors, historically-speaking, there were many negative points. [passage omitted]

Today's Spain is not the same as yesterday's Spain, just as today's Morocco is not the same as yesterday's Morocco. There have been many changes in Spanish society as well. There are new circumstances, and accordingly, we have to take these developments into consideration. These developments are, in many instances, positive where Morocco is concerned.

Some negative elements remain, as in the Ceuta and Melilla issues. We have to overcome them, but we must overcome them by... [pauses] As you know, the method, by His Majesty, the King, or by public opinion or the Moroccan people... [pauses] We are not the sort of people who want solutions by talking, excessive talking or distortion. We were always against solutions, even in the Middle East, that were built on war, because they do not resolve anything. Hence, we want solutions based on dialogue.

I believe the Spanish Government has started to veer towards recognizing there must be dialogue with Morocco on the future of these two enclaves. The Spanish foreign minister was recently on a visit to Morocco and we discussed this issue and it became evident that there was a possibility to open a dialogue, God willing, with the Spanish Government in that field.

Because of that... [pauses] It is a bit of a difficult problem, but like the difficulty in any problem, one could with time find a solution. [passage omitted]

## Iraq's 'Aziz Talks Said To Include Sanctions, Israel

*MM1608161994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Aug 94 p 1*

[Report by Munsif al-Sulaymi: "Rabat Neither Confirms Nor Denies Mediation Between Iraq and Israel"]

[Text] Rabat—King Hassan of Morocco has received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. It was conveyed by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who arrived in Morocco from Jordan the night before last.

On arrival at Rabat airport 'Aziz said that Saddam Husayn's message "concerns bilateral relations and Iraq's relations with the UN Security Council."

Well-informed sources in Rabat have said that the Iraqi deputy prime minister's talks with Moroccan officials focused on the issue of lifting the international embargo imposed on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait. The sources pointed to the existence of "a new Iraqi proposal" through which Iraq is seeking at the Arab and international levels to lift the embargo.

Some time ago Morocco assumed mediation endeavors between Iraq and other Arab and Western states with a view to easing the sanctions imposed on Iraq. This is in addition to the endeavors made by Moroccan king to solve the Kuwaiti POW's problem.

Morocco believes that the cornerstone in a real solution to the Gulf crisis must proceed from clear Iraqi recognition of the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait and the resolutions concerning border demarcations between the two countries.

While official Moroccan sources remained silent about the issue of Moroccan mediation between Iraqi and Israel through its representative at the United Nations, the sources expect the issue of peace in the Middle East to be one of the most prominent pivots of the Moroccan-Iraqi talks.

It was striking for the (semi-official) Moroccan newspaper AL-SAHRA' to talk about Iraqi-Israeli contacts via a "third party" it did not name. In a report it published the day before yesterday entitled "Iraq-Israel: Have the Features of Peace Begun To Appear on the Horizon?" the newspaper pointed to contacts between the two sides, citing Israel's official radio.

## Human Rights Group Urges Application of Royal Pardon

*LD1308132194 Rabat MAP in English 1243 GMT 13 Aug 94*

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 13 (MAP)—The Moroccan Human Rights Organization (Independent) published Friday a release asking that the latest royal decision to pardon 424 detainees be 'totally put into effect'.

During a meeting held here last week by the organization's national bureau 'to examine conditions in which the royal decision was implemented, members said that petitions sent to the organization and information published by associations of exiled persons showed that 56 persons of those on the list submitted to his majesty are not yet freed'.

Noting 'with interest', the statement made by the Ministry of Human Rights that he decision of general pardon will remain 'open', the bureau asked that each application for pardon be considered immediately, impartially and with equity. In this regard, the organization deems that the principles of justice and equality provided for by the Constitution 'require that the royal pardon be granted to all persons sentenced in cases of opinion or with a political characteristic, having served or not their

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sentence, including those sentenced during the past three decades under the 1935 dahir abrogated recently'.

The organization also asked that all practical problems hindering the return of political exiled persons be settled mainly by issuing legal passports to the persons concerned.

### Pardoned Exiles Still Awaiting Return

*LD1708124994 Rabat MAP in English 1217 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] Rabat, Aug 17 (MAP)—The majority of the pardoned exiled Moroccans, particularly those installed in France, are still awaiting for their passports to return to Morocco, said Moroccan Human Rights Organisation (OMDH).

In a communique carried Tuesday by AL-ITTIHAD AL-ICHTIRAKI, OMDH recalled that two exiled Moroccans returned lately to Morocco following the royal decision to grant pardon to the exiled and political prisoners.

Meetings were held lately at the Moroccan Embassy in France to facilitate the administrative procedures for the amnestied persons to ease their return to Morocco in line with the royal decision which was hailed worldwide and closed once for all the issue of political prisoners.

### Libyan Official Arrives With al-Qadhdhafi Invitation

*LD1508134894 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Aug 94*

[Excerpts] Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Revolution Leadership Council in the Libyan Arab Great Jamahiriyah, arrived in Rabat today on a visit to Morocco. [passage omitted]

On his arrival, Major al-Humaydi pointed out in a statement to the press that he is carrying an official invitation from the Libyan Leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to His Majesty King Hassan II to participate in the Libyan celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the 1 September revolution.

The Libyan official added that his visit will be an opportunity to discuss numerous bilateral, Maghreban, and international issues with Moroccan officials.

## Sudan

### Official Urges Removal From U.S. Terrorist List

*LD1608210794 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] The transfer to France of the terrorist, Carlos, does not amount to a change in Sudan's political line: This is what Mr. (Atabani), minister of state in the president's office, said from Khartoum today. He also specified that his country is opposed to both violence and terrorism.

After the extradition to France of the terrorist Carlos yesterday, Khartoum is apparently counting on gaining some benefit from its gesture in improving its international image. Yesterday the Sudanese justice minister asked Washington to remove Sudan from the list of the countries supporting terrorism in the world. Sudan in fact is more determined than ever to convince westerners that its reputation as a rear base for terrorism is wrong, and that it aims to respect international law. This is what the diplomatic counsellor of the Sudanese Embassy in Paris, Atta Bakhit, explained to Chantal Lorho:

[Begin Bakhit recording] It is not particularly that we are expecting something concrete from France or from other western countries. For us, it is confirmation—further confirmation—of our position of principle, which is always to align ourselves with, always to be among the ranks of the countries which are fighting effectively against international terorism. That is part of it.

The statements by the justice minister were made because we believe that the accusations made by the United States are without foundation. We have asked the United States several times, the Americans, to give us proof that we are a terrorist state. They were not able to do this, and so now we have once again provided confirmation of our position as a state that does not support terrorism. For all these reasons I believe that it is quite legitimate for us to ask the Americans to take us off this famous list. [end recording]

### Official Views Details of Carlos's Arrest

*LD1608190294 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Excerpts] [Announcer Bromberger] Carlos spent his last months of freedom in Sudan, after being rejected by the other Arab states. [passage omitted]

[Begin Sudanese Embassy Counselor Atta Bakhit recording] He entered Sudan with a false passport along with a group of his colleagues. They stayed in a hotel in Khartoum before renting a villa. The contacts and movements of the group attracted the attention of the Sudanese security services, who started to monitor the group, especially Mr. Carlos, not knowing he was this international criminal.

At a certain moment the French contacted us. They supplied important documents and information, saying that Carlos was in Khartoum. The Sudanese authorities needed some time to check the French information and documents before they realized that this gentleman really was Carlos. [end recording]

### U.S. Urged To Reconsider Measures on Terrorism

*EA1608215294 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] The entry of persons such as 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khulayfi, who was tried recently [sentenced to death

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on 3 August for mosque attack], and Carlos into the country, was a plan that targets Sudan through dispatching terrorists with the aim of providing assistance to terrorism to Sudan, the justice minister and attorney general, ['Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu], said in a press statement. He stated that the Arab organization [as heard] had dispatched al- Khulayfi to Sudan as Carlos had entered the country. [sentence as heard]

Mr. Shiddu pointed out that the cooperation between Sudan and France in extraditing the terrorist, Carlos, confirmed that the Sudan does not harbor terrorists adding that the United States should reconsider its measures which put Sudan with those countries allegedly harboring terrorism. The justice minister said that Sudan is now being subjected to exploitation due to its tolerance and acceptance of Arab citizens.

### Egyptian Property Seized; Diplomat's Car Hit

*NC1608183294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Aug (MENA)—The Sudanese security authorities today seized the headquarters of the Egyptian community in Khartoum, the housing compound for teachers working at the Egyptian school, and administrative offices of the former educational mission, which is adjacent to the school. The Sudanese authorities dismissed the 33 Egyptian teachers from their houses on the compound and gathered them in two flats on the compound. They gave them until tomorrow, Wednesday [17 August], noon to vacate the two flats.

In another development, the car of 'Ala' 'Abd-al-Sadiq, Egypt's consul general in Sudan, was hit by a pick-up truck without license plates while he was driving it. The diplomat's car was badly damaged, but he escaped injury.

### Al-Bashir Invited To Attend 1 Sep Celebrations

*EA1608175094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has received a letter from his counterpart, the international leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1st September Revolution. The president received in his office at the Republican Palace this morning, the Libyan emissary Ibrahim al-Bushari who said the letter dwelled on relations between the two countries and ways of supporting and developing them. In his letter, the international leader invited Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir to participate in the Jamahiriyah's celebrations of the September revolution. The letter also touched on the pending issue of the oppressive blockade imposed by Western states on the Jamahiriyah and the pressures being brought to bear on it.

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## Qatar

### Pakistan's Bhutto Arrives on Official Visit

*NC1508192394 Paris AFP in English 1907 GMT 15 Aug 94*

[Text] Doha, Aug 15 (AFP)—Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived in Qatar Monday [15 August] for a three-day visit to discuss bilateral cooperation, the official Qatari news agency QNA said.

Bhutto is also to discuss the Middle East peace process and the situation in the Gulf, QNA added.

Pakistani officials said she would return directly to Pakistan after leaving Qatar without visiting other Gulf countries, as Islamabad had previously announced.

Tens of thousands of Pakistani expatriates work in Qatar and other oil-rich Gulf monarchies.

Bhutto was accompanied by Pakistan's foreign and labour ministers.

Qatari exports to Pakistan—mostly oil and petrochemical products—reached 80.3 million dollars in 1992. Qatar imports around 13.7 million dollars worth of Pakistani products.

### Holds Talks With Amir

*BK1608151694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, held talks in Doha today on important international issues, regional situation, and matters regarding bilateral interest. The prime minister was assisted by the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali; Minister of State for Labor Mr. Ghulam Akbar Lasi; and special adviser for social welfare Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali. Qatar's crown prince and Minister of Defense Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and other officials assisted the amir. The talks were held in an extremely cordial atmosphere reflecting the traditional brotherly relations between the two countries. The prime minister briefed the amir of Qatar on the increase in the level of Indian troops in the occupied Kashmir and the intensification of Indian operations against the Kashmiri people, who are struggling for their right to self-determination. The amir of Qatar expressed his country's full support for the people of Kashmir and Pakistan's efforts to secure international support for peaceful solution of the problem.

Briefing newsmen after the talks, the foreign secretary, Mr. Najmuddin Shaikh, said of the international issues which were deliberated upon including the situation in Bosnia, Somalia, the Middle East peace process, and other areas of the role of the Muslim world. On Afghanistan, the foreign secretary said the amir of Qatar expressed full support for Pakistan's efforts for an effective reconciliation between the warring factions and to bring about peace in the troubled land. Other bilateral subjects discussed included the proposed gas pipeline, employment of Pakistani manpower in Qatar, joint ventures between the two countries, and the forthcoming meeting of the joint commission of the two countries.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has convened a special meeting of the Pakistani envoys stationed in the Middle East in Doha tomorrow. PTV's representative Ziauddin Butt reports from Doha that Kashmir issue is likely to be on top of the agenda. The envoy's conference will also discuss the possibilities of expanding trade links with the Middle Eastern countries with whom Pakistan enjoys cordial brotherly relations.

In Doha last night, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto attended a banquet hosted in her honor by the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani. On her arrival, at the Dewane Amiri, the prime minister was received by the amir of Qatar. The members of the royal family, ministers of the cabinet, and Shura Council, and other notables of Qatar were introduced to Benazir Bhutto. Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali; Minister of State for Labor, Manpower, and Overseas Pakistanis Ghulam Akbar Lasi; special assistant to the prime minister Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali; MNA [member of National Assembly], Mr. Asif Zardari; and other members of prime minister's entourage also attended the banquet.

## United Arab Emirates

### Dubai Islamic Bank Expands to 'World's Biggest'

*NC1608181194 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 16 (AFP)—The Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) is to double its capital to become the world's biggest Islamic bank despite being affected by the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, a senior DIB official said Tuesday [16 August].

The bank has invited its shareholders to buy new shares it will issue next month to double its capital to 420 million dirhams (114.4 million dollars), accounts department director Husayn al-Rifa'i, told AFP.

A total of 2.1 million shares are to be issued at a cost of 100 dirhams (27.2 dollars) each.

"Subscription will begin on September 1 and will last for one month. We expect the shares to be subscribed in less than a month given the strong financial position of the bank and the confidence in it," he said.

"The increase will give birth to the biggest Islamic Bank in the world in terms of capital and the second in terms of assets. Currently, the Saudi Faysal Islamic Bank is the biggest in the world."

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The Dubai government owns 12 percent of DIB while the Kuwaiti government has a 10 percent stake and the rest is held by private investors.

DIB did not distribute profits to its shareholders for three years because of the BCCI crisis but it approved a cash dividend of six percent in 1993, when net profits stood at 17 million dirhams (4.63 million dollars).

Bank officials said they expected net profits to surge to 28 million dirhams (7.62 million dollars) in 1994 due to an economic upturn in the region.

Al-Rifa'i conceded DIB was dealing with BCCI before it was shut down by the Bank of England in July 1991 for allegations of massive fraud said to have involved more than 10 billion dollars.

But he defended the dealings as merely commercial transactions that did not include interest, banned by Islam as usury.

"We do not deny that we had dealings with BCCI. We did this because it is owned by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government and there was no Islamic bank in London to deal with," he said.

"BCCI was like a representative for us. Our transactions covered imports and exports as well as real estate investment. We are now waiting to see how much we will regain from our money with the BCCI but we have fully recovered from the problem by covering our losses from provisions and profits."

Bankers earlier said DIB assets with BCCI were estimated at 300 million dirhams (81.7 million dollars) and it is expected to recover between 30 and 40 percent of the sum under a compensation offer by the UAE emirate of Abu Dhabi, which owned 77 percent of BCCI. The 1.8-billion-dollar offer is awaiting approval by courts in England, Luxembourg and Grand Caymans.

Despite the crisis, DIB's assets have grown steadily over the past years to reach a record 6.8 billion dirhams (1.85 billion dollars) at the end of 1993.

"This shows the bank is performing well. There is a sharp growth in business in the UAE and other countries. Our activities are concentrated on financing projects and buying and selling property," al-Rifa'i said.

"This in turn has boosted the price of the DIB share to 180 dirhams (49 dollars) from less than 140 dirhams (38.1 dollars) at the start of the year."

DIB, which does not deal in interest but charges a percentage of the project's profits, is one of several UAE banks that have raised their capital in line with instructions by the Central Bank to boost their adequacy to meet standards set by the Bank for International Settlement.

The increase will also allow banks to extend more credits following restrictions on lending by the Central Bank seeking to prevent a recurrence of the bad debt crisis in the mid-1980s.

## Yemen

### Libya's al-Kharubi Arrives on Visit

*JN1708064894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel Mustafa al-Kharubi, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and inspector general of the People's Armed Forces in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Sanaa yesterday leading a large delegation on a short visit to our country. During his visit he will meet with a number of officials to discuss issues pertaining to cooperation between the two brotherly states.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', Brother Colonel Mustafa al-Kharubi said that he is carrying a message to Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September Revolution, inviting the brother Presidential Council chairman to attend the celebrations of the Libyan people marking the 25th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution.

He said that during his visit he will hold talks with Yemeni officials focussing on issues related to bilateral relations and cooperation. He said he will seize the opportunity to congratulate the great unionist people of Yemen, who have demonstrated their defense of unity and adherence to their pan-Arabism and values.

He expressed confidence that the Yemeni people, who built a civilization in the past, will continue to make history. He said: The Yemeni people have realized their unity anew, emphasized it, taught the world a new lesson, and lifted the morale of the free unionists all over the Arab world.

Concluding his statement, the Libyan official expressed confidence that our Yemeni people will go ahead with firm steps toward the future, heal their wounds, and realize reconciliation so that the march of Arab unity will begin from a happy Yemen. [passage omitted]

### Salih Orders Ban on 'Partisanship' in Armed Forces

*JN1608185294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today presided over an expanded meeting of the commanders of the Armed Forces.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed issues related to restructuring and reorganizing the Armed Forces on national and scientific foundations, as well as enhancing their future role in undertaking national missions and duties. The conferees also assessed the heroic

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performance of our Armed Forces and the role of departments, units, and formations during the military operations against the secessionist rebels to defend and entrench unity. Moreover, the conferees discussed many issues related to overcoming the impact of the war on the ranks of the Armed Forces and spelling out the bases for the modernization and development of our Armed Forces to enhance our country's defensive capabilities and safeguard all national gains, primarily unity and democracy.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces spoke during the meeting. He expressed his pleasure to meet with the brother commanders of the Armed Forces, after having destroyed the sedition ignited by the traitorous rebels among the unified sons of the Yemeni people and their Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

The brother president said: Having destroyed this sedition, we now have important tasks. The most important task is to rebuild the Armed Forces on responsible national foundations, away from regionalism, parochialism, favoritism, and partisanship. As of today, partisanship shall be banned within the ranks of the Armed Forces and security agencies. All party membership cards shall be withdrawn from the commanders, in order to safeguard the Armed Forces and the homeland. We have been through enough experiences to make us not want any further negative consequences for the Armed Forces and the security agencies. Any member of the military who wants to stay in any political party or organization has the right to do that. However, he should first resign from the Armed Forces. Henceforth, there shall be no combination of party affiliation and membership in the Armed Forces. Allegiance in the Armed Forces shall only be to God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity, and not to any political party or organization, whatever its form. Parties should compete under the aegis of democracy. The Armed Forces and security agencies should protect democracy, national sovereignty, and constitutional legitimacy. The Armed Forces and security agencies will not allow anyone to jeopardize the security of the homeland.

The brother president noted that the Constitution and the Political Parties and Organizations Law do not allow parties to have foreign connections. Any organization that has foreign connection or allegiance is not a national party and is violating the Constitution and the Law.

The brother supreme commander said one of the urgent tasks in building the Armed Forces is restructuring, reorganizing, and merging the Armed Forces in a national manner.

The brother president urged the members of the military who were misled to take advantage of the general amnesty law and to join the ranks of the military establishment. He said it is not common for any country to declare a general amnesty while fighting a battle. This was not done in response to any pressures. It was done out of appreciation for national interests and to prevent further bloodshed. We declared the general amnesty law when we were in the midst of the recent developments. However, regrettably, some people did not take advantage of the amnesty. Some misled members of the military told me that they had been waiting until the last minute for the arrival of international troops so that another state would be set up. We have said, right from the outset, that under no condition shall our people agree to return to divisions, and that we shall not allow the establishment of two separate states. There is one state by the name of the Yemeni Republic. Praise be to God for what has happened. Sometimes, a negative development may yield good results. The unity that was achieved on 22 May is now stronger. There were two armies, two presidents, two governments, and two defense ministers. Today, however, there is one army, one president, and one defense minister of the Army of the Yemeni Republic.

The leadership of the Socialist Party joined the unity when it had, in reality, conspired against it. It had planned to sow disorder and seize power. However, praise be to God, the bonds of unity have been strengthened, having been baptized with blood. Unity is a great action that deserves all sacrifices to be bolstered. [passage omitted]

The brother president said the traitors al-Bid, al-Jifri, [Haydar Abu-Bakr] al-'Attas, Haytham [Qasim Tahir], and Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, were nothing more than agents and tools to implement a foreign conspiratorial scheme aimed at secession and the depletion of Yemeni resources. Their main target was to conspire against 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih because he led the plan of unity. This means conspiring against unity. We saw the ensuing scenario.

The brother president expressed his high appreciation for the French position and the stand of the United States, which has supported unity and democracy despite the pressures to which it was subjected. He appreciated the stands of Spain and Argentina at the Security Council. He also appreciated the Arab brothers who had sided with our people and supported its unity, primarily, Qatar, Jordan, Iraq, Sudan, and Libya. He said: We appreciate all those who sided with us under the difficult circumstances. As for some other people, they had wagered on the return of divisions. We told them this was difficult, because division was not acceptable and would not happen because, throughout history, we have been one people, who have the same creed, heritage, and struggle. [passage omitted]

The brother president urged the brother military commanders to shoulder their responsibilities efficiently and honestly. He pointed out that there are firm guidelines and foundations that will be introduced to build the state. Among these guidelines is setting a period of four years for the tenure of ministers, governors, military commanders, and others. During these four years, there

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will be a process of evaluation. Those who prove their efficiency and dedication will be transferred to another position. Those who prove to be not eligible for their post will be replaced.

He stressed the leadership's determination to establish state authority and not allow any person, whoever he is, to disrupt security or challenge the law. He said: The military and security establishment should deal firmly and strongly with any person who disrupts security and stability and should deter such actions immediately. In the past, we used to follow a lenient approach toward some actions that violate security and laws because of political disputes and as a result of the support extended by the Socialist Party to the saboteurs. However, all of this is now gone, and we shall not go easy on any person who violates security. [passage omitted]

The brother president spoke about local government, pointing out that our country will go through this experience shortly in order to build a modern Yemeni state. This experiment is based on administrative and financial decentralization and giving powers to executive agencies in the governorates to assume their duties and tasks. He stressed the importance of spreading awareness of this experiment and removing any fears or misunderstandings that could arise on the part of some people regarding this experiment. He said the governors will be elected through a local council that will nominate several leading personalities so one of them can be chosen to assume the responsibility for the governorate. This is meant so that citizens will be responsible for their choice and take to task the officials who neglect their duties. [passage omitted]

At the conclusion of the meeting, the brother president said: We shall soon reveal, God willing, the conspiratorial scheme against unity and democracy, supported by documents and conclusive evidence against the secessionist elements inside and outside the homeland and the forces that support them. He added: We shall publish all documents that reveal the dimensions of the scheme that targeted Yemen and its unity through the radio, television, and the press to our people and the public abroad so that our people and the world learn all the facts about those who sought to fragment our homeland and destroy its unity. [passage omitted]

## Sanaa Said Committed to Trying Secessionists

*MM1508155694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Aug 94 p 5*

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Ambassador 'Abd-al-Malik Sa'id, charge d'affaires at the Yemeni Embassy in Cairo, has said that Sanaa will not backtrack on bringing to trial those accused in the crisis and the war experienced by Yemen and the planners and heads of the secession movement.

He revealed preparations being made by the prosecutor general and the judicial authority to conduct these trials, like preparing the files and indictment documents for 16 Socialist Party leaders abroad and the secession's leaders and symbols.

Sa'id stressed that "the priority on the Yemeni leadership's agenda is to achieve stability on the domestic front and to complete the cabinet formation procedures." He stressed "Sanaa's and the Yemeni people's insistence on bringing the secession leaders before the people." He emphasized that "they were not expected to be rewarded for the crimes they committed against the people and their institutions." He revealed that "Four thousand prominent Socialist Party leaders and symbols have benefited from the general amnesty decision after they were misled," and that they have been allowed to returned to their country. He pointed out that they "were implicated in military and political operations but the general amnesty included them."

As for the 16 leaders for whose arrest a decision was issued, the Yemeni ambassador in Cairo said that "these were implicated in the sedition incidents, planned the secession, and relied on the outside world, so no amnesty for them." He said that his country "has not so far submitted any requests for the extradition or arrest of these leaders." Asked whether Sanaa is going to conduct "trials in absentia for the secession symbols," the Yemeni diplomat said that "as every state is entitled to pursue citizens who harm its public security, why should Yemen be excluded from this right?"

He added: "As for those insisting on living under the secession delusion and scheme, namely the Socialist Party leaders implicated in the incidents, they will not escape from the Yemeni people's grip. They will be tried for the crimes they committed against them."

On internal conditions after the end of the war, Ambassador 'Abd-al-Malik Sa'id said that the Yemeni Government has made great strides toward building what the war destroyed. Life has returned to normal in Aden and all southern cities. Citizens have resumed their jobs and daily life affairs. And employees now go to their workplaces regularly. He pointed out that "all facilities in these cities, including water and power facilities, have not been repaired. And the television has resumed its program and media transmission."

'Abd-al-Malik Sa'if revealed that Egyptian-Yemeni contacts are being made to sign an agreement on organizing Egyptian boats' entry into Yemeni territorial waters. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that the Egyptian fishing boat held in Yemen will be released within days after obtaining an undertaking from the crew not to enter Yemeni territorial waters without obtaining permission.

The Yemeni ambassador said: "Major fishing companies are exploiting Egyptian fisherman to encroach on Yemeni fisheries." He added: Cairo and Sanaa are currently preparing to sign a security agreement to

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combat terrorism and exchange criminals. He denied the presence of Egyptian extremists on Yemeni territory.

He pointed to his country's willingness to prevent Egyptian extremists from staying in Yemen or passing through it to escape to other states.

### YSP Statement Assailed by Allied League

*MM1608112194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Aug 94 p 5*

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Sons of Yemen League party led by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri issued a statement on the evening of the day before yesterday condemning the position mentioned in the statement issued in Damascus recently by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership.

The statement said: The League, the YSP, the Yemeni Reform Grouping, the Nasirite Unionist Organization, the Popular Forces Union, and the independents agreed to their alliance during the war in the south, proceeding from a clear vision rejecting the all-out war waged by Sanaa against the south. Thus the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] was announced in accordance with the foundations listed in its proclamation. Members of the YSP Political Bureau in Aden approved the establishment of the DRY as a mechanism for implementing the accord announced on 15 May, which was signed by the League, the YSP, and the other parties of the national opposition bloc. We did not hear any YSP voice oppose what had been done in principle. All parties took part in and agreed to it.

This is why the League is interested in clarifying its position on the statement issued in Damascus by members of the YSP Political Bureau on 3 Rabi' al-Awwal 1415 H, corresponding to 10 August 1994, and on statements made by some of those who attended the Damascus meeting, in the following points:

First, the statement portrayed these people as though they have nothing to do with what happened. So they condemned what they themselves did, as though they hold others responsible for that action. They forgot everything they had done and said.

Second, the steadfastness and resistance against the war was an honor in which most of the Damascus meeting participants did not take part. The honor was for the heroic sons of our people, our army, and our nation, who stood fast.

Third, accepting the general amnesty means accepting the original incrimination. Because general amnesty is issued only to those who are convicted of a crime. It is not issued even for accused people. So their acceptance of the general amnesty and the condemnation of an action in which they participated cancels any right for them to participate in the future in leading national action.

Fourth, some statements indicated that "the YSP should carry the south issue and urge northerners in the YSP to carry this issue." We would like to point out that the YSP has always abandoned the south issue, and when some men in it tried to cooperate with others to carry the issue, they were let down by the Damascus meeting. But we declare that there are men in the south capable of carrying the issue as they have done throughout history. And they will cooperate with the "men" in the YSP and elsewhere to carry the issue and make it a success.

Fifth, we do not believe that that statement expresses the views of the other YSP leaders or the commanders of the armed and security forces, who stood fast and fought bravely to defend honor and dignity, and who contacted us from their positions and from the various ranks, declaring their adherence to the position they fought to defend, as well as their support for the leadership and their condemnation of the statement.

Sixth, that statement ignored the blood of thousands of martyrs and wounded and all the sacrifices made by our people, as though all this was not in defense of the issue and people's honor and dignity.

Seventh, the statement focused on the YSP's unity and the interests of its leaders without any consideration for the people and their issue, as though the unity of the northern and southern YSP is the issue and as though the interests of its leaders and their houses, cars, and privileges are the main thing. As for people's issues, the occupation issue, rape, erasing the identity, looting everything in the south, and issues of the evacuees and their suffering and sacrifices...all these matters seem to be regarded as secondary questions.

Eighth, they adopted this separate, weak position away from all the alliance forces that stood fast in the fighting and away from all the military and civil cadres and leaderships, proceeding from the autocratic method to which they are accustomed, forgetting that the fighting has exposed the true face of everyone. By this position they have severed their link with the alliance and with the cause of our people in the DRY.

Ninth, the results of the fighting have clearly shown that the steadfastness and solid resistance existed when there was national unity, and that fleeing and weakness happened when the autocratic mentality prevailed and the other national forces were excluded.

Tenth, some of the infiltrations in which the Sanaa regime succeeded, as the YSP leaders themselves admitted, were done through some of the leaders that attended the Damascus meeting. And this was one of the reasons that led to the weakness of the steadfastness and resistance in some areas and their collapse in other areas. It also led to the political collapse and capitulation in the Damascus meeting.

Eleventh, we in the League will remain—as usual—faithful to our positions and those who are committed to

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their positions. We will remain faithful to our people, who have made sacrifices. We will also work to safeguard the alliance which was set up in the DRY framework. And we are confident that the brothers in the YSP and all those participating in the alliance are still committed to this line.

## Presidential Council Urges Speeding Construction

*JN1608173194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] The Presidential Council held a meeting today under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. It discussed many national developments and issues of interest to the march of constructing [word indistinct] Yemen, in addition to regional and international developments.

The council also discussed the outcome of the activities and meetings of the brother chairman and members of the council in the past week, in addition to a number of reports on the efforts designed to achieve building and reconstruction and circumvent the effects of the (?war) imposed by those who rebelled against our people and homeland.

The council recommended accelerating construction in order to compensate for what our country lost in the past four and one-half years. During that period, the secessionist rebels in the [Yemeni] Socialist Party obstructed development projects in the homeland, particularly in the governorates of Aden, Abyan, Lahij, al-Maharah, Shabwah, and Hadhramaut. [passage omitted]

## Economic Council Views Oil Company Security

*JN1608184194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 94*

[Text] The Higher Council for Economic, Oil, and Investment Affairs held a meeting this morning under the chairmanship of acting Prime Minister Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar.

The agenda of the meeting included the draft executive program of the government's economic, financial, and monetary institutions, as well as possible practical steps to control the deficit in the state's general budget.

The council reviewed reports on oil exploration in the Jannah sector according to the 1994 plan. The council expressed satisfaction with the return of oil companies to our country to continue their work now that security has been established. These oil companies stopped their operations because of the war imposed by the rebels on legitimacy and by the conspirators against the unity of the homeland.

The council stressed the need to reinforce security measures for all oil companies working in the Republic. The council also stressed the importance of linking economic, financial, and administrative reform, as well as the integration of all steps and methods [words indistinct] and with a strategic vision.

In its next meeting, the council will continue to discuss issues related to the subsidiary and monetary policies.

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### Daily Says Clinton 'Deliberately Lies' to Congress

*JN1708090194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has condemned the openly hostile position adopted by the U.S. President toward Iraq, saying Bill Clinton deliberately lies to and deceives Congress in order to get his policy passed.

In an article today, the newspaper of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party commented on the latest confrontation between Clinton and the Congress over the U.S. position towards Iraq. The paper said that, in his reply to Congress' question on how well Iraq is implementing the Security Council resolutions, Clinton—who found himself surrounded with great Iraqi facts—resorted to blatant lies and to accusations that Iraq sponsors acts of violence against UN representatives.

The newspaper refuted Clinton's allegations and said that Clinton lied twice to Congress: First when he accused Iraq of involvement in incidents in northern Iraq, which is protected by Washington, and in which fighting is taking place between armed groups known to be agents of the United States. AL-THAWRAH added that Clinton lied to the Congress a second time when he intentionally failed to convey the facts to the U.S. legislators on Iraq's great achievements in the implementation of Resolution 687, as attested to by the head of the Special Commission, Rolf Ekeus.

The paper drew the attention of the Congress and the international community in general to what Iraq has accomplished in implementation of the commitments stipulated in that resolution. It said that this has been supported by many Security Council permanent members, such as Russia, China, and France, which asked the Security Council to reconsider these sanctions.

The newspaper expressed confidence that within a short time the U.S. Administration's lies about Iraq will be exposed. The deceptive means used to convince the world that Iraq's position is the opposite of what it really is on the implementation of Security Council resolutions and the steps expected from the council in implementation of its commitments toward lifting the siege imposed on Iraq will also be exposed.

### Kurd Leaders Announce 'Cessation' of Fighting

*NC1608183794 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1625 GMT 16 Aug 94*

["Text" of "appeal" issued by Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, on 15 August; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] From Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani to all branches, organizational centers, and officials of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Kurdish Islamic Movement, and all the peshmerga forces. Warm greetings.

We wish to inform you that we decided before the Kurdistan parliament on the complete cessation of fighting and all forms of showdowns in all parts of liberated Kurdistan. Therefore, we urge you to implement this decision scrupulously and not to give any person or group the opportunity to ignore or violate this decision. Whoever tries to violate the decision will be held accountable and will receive the severest punishment.

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### Peres Comments Before Liaison in Talks in Egypt

*TA1708074894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] Speaking prior to his departure for Alexandria, Egypt to attend discussions of the liaison committee, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Israel could not deal with the 800,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip with slogans and headlines. It was inconceivable, he said, that it should take eight hours to cross the Erez checkpoint. Peres revealed that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had ordered the transportation minister to look into this matter today and resolve it in the best possible way.

Foreign Minister Peres estimated that decisions would be reached in Alexandria. Both the Palestinians and Israelis were fighting very hard to prevent the agreement from collapsing. We shall discuss the opening of the safe passages, Peres said, stressing, however, that since the signing of the Oslo agreement, Israel had made no compromises with regard to personal security. The Palestinian police would therefore be called upon to take all the necessary steps to remove the security threat. Minister Peres believes that progress is also possible in the discussions on the transfer of funds from the donor countries to the Palestinians.

The foreign minister will also meet in Egypt with President Husni Mubarak. Among other issues, the two men will discuss ways to encourage economic development in the Middle East and Peres will present several ideas to the Egyptian president. These proposals include a U.S. readiness to expand the free trade zone to Egypt as well.

### Rabin Urges PLO To Delete Articles From Charter

*NC1608162294 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 16 (AFP)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is urging the PLO to erase from its charter articles calling for the annihilation of Israel, a spokesman said Tuesday [16 August].

"The PLO pledged to remove from its charter the paragraphs calling for the destruction of the State of Israel almost a year ago," Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben Ami told AFP.

"We are beginning to feel it is taking too long and we insist that the PLO carries out this alteration," he added.

When Israel and the PLO exchanged letters of recognition on September 9, 1993, PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat said in his message to Rabin that the chapters "denying Israel's right to exist were from now on null and void."

But no progress has so far been made on modifying the 33-article charter which was drawn up by a PLO congress in 1964 in Jerusalem and revised in 1968.

"Rabin has raised this issue at each of his meetings with 'Arafat. He highlighted it during their meeting last Wednesday" at the Erez crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip, said a member of his office, asking to remain anonymous.

He said 'Arafat had promised to call a meeting soon of the National Palestinian Council in the Gaza Strip. Any changes to the charter have to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the total council membership.

But he added the PLO leader had said such a meeting would pose "logistical and organisational problems."

"A modification of the charter will enable Israel to reinforce its backing for the peace process by overturning arguments from the nationalist right-wing opposition," he said.

Any changes to the charter are likely to provoke a lively debate within the Palestinian council.

Its president Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih told Israeli radio by telephone Tuesday he was against any changes because "we have to maintain Palestinian unity," stressing that the council "must only meet in Jerusalem."

Al-Sa'ih, who is in his 90s, handed in his resignation in 1991 to protest the start of Israel-PLO talks at the Madrid conference in October, but it was not accepted.

Another council member Tawfiq Abu-Bakr said he thought it was "virtually impossible" to get the charter changed in view of the relationships between the different council groups.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told Israeli radio Tuesday: "We are asking for changes to the charter, but we are not making it a condition for transferring civilian powers in the West Bank."

The charter remains a point of reference for Palestinians stating in article nine that "armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine."

It brands the establishment of the state of Israel "entirely illegal," and says the "liberation of Palestine will destroy the Zionist and imperialist presence" contributing to peace in the Middle East.

### Officials Announce New Tax Measures for '95

*TA1608155894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] First to the economic and financial bombshell. The Treasury plans to tax stock market profits by 10 percent starting January next year. The announcement was made by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat at a news conference in Jerusalem. The stock exchange is to be closed for the next two days. The Treasury proposal has still to be put to the government for approval. The finance minister told the news conference a short time ago that the government expects the measures to net 500 million shekels for state income. This money would not be included in the state budget, but would be returned to the taxpayer through tax cuts on goods and services. He

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said the move did not have to send shockwaves through the stock exchange and at the same time he promised not to impose any tax on pension, provident, and post-graduate study funds.

In the first reaction to the move, the Histadrut labor federation has praised the share taxation plan. It said it was wrong to impose heavy taxes on the work force while allowing easy profits in the capital market.

Finance Minister Shohat also announced a drop in purchase tax from next week on air conditioners, vehicle spare parts, computers, and their replacement parts. In effect, he said computers would be purchase-tax-free. Also to be cut from the first of January are income tax on personal and corporate earnings.

The governor of the Bank of Israel, Ya'aqov Frenkel, announced a series of steps aimed at liberalizing foreign currency transactions. He said that Israeli companies would be allowed to invest without restrictions abroad and would be able to hold foreign stocks and foreign currency accounts with certain restrictions.

In other financial news, wage earners will get an increase of 3.7 percent cost of living allowance in next month pay packet. The ceiling for payment has been raised from 3,800 shekels to 4,300.

### Rabin Justifies Taxes

*TA1608183194 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Yaron Deqel video report]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening explained the decision to tax stock market profits by saying that the stock market has turned into a casino. Referring to promises made in the past that such a tax would not be imposed, Rabin said that the prime minister and the finance minister are entitled not to always speak the truth regarding devaluation and taxation issues. Our correspondent Yaron Deqel spoke with the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] Our aim is to enable the Israeli economy to continue developing and growing, and in fact to prevent the previous speculation which has rocked the stock market, seeing that part of the public considered it as a casino where it is only possible to win.

[Deqel] Mr. Rabin, in the past you said—and I think this is an accurate quote: As long as I am prime minister stock market profits will not be taxed. How is this new move going to effect the prime minister's credibility in the eyes of the public?

[Rabin] This is a good question which I have no intentions of evading. I think that you cannot expect a prime minister and a finance minister to speak all the truth when dealing with a devaluation or new taxation policy. I do not think I could have said anything else when the stock market was in a state of depression. In my opinion stabilizing the stock market is more important than adhering to what I have said on issues such as devaluation and a new taxation policy.

[Deqel] Incidentally, are the prime minister and his wife invested in the stock market?

[Rabin] We have a provident fund in Bank Hapo'alim, I do not remember if it is Gadish or Tagmulim. Believe me, only negligible sums are involved. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 16 August adds: "Prime Minister Rabin says the new economic measures are meant to provide the government with funds which will help it deal with inflation. Mr. Rabin hopes the new decisions will bring about an immediate drop in the prices of several commodities, and that in January there will be a further price drop. He said that a nervous reaction by the stock market is only natural, but it will stabilize because the economy is strong and is experiencing growth."]

### Government 'Secretly' Appoints Envoy to Taiwan

*TA1708103294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Aug 94 p A1*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] For the first time, the Foreign Ministry has appointed a representative to Taiwan. The appointment was made secretly and not published so as not to annoy China. For that reason the post will be filled by a junior diplomat with the rank of second secretary.

Ilan Ma'or, a Foreign Ministry representative, will operate within the framework of the Israeli commercial legation in Taipei, which operates under the aegis of the Israel Export Institute. His letter of appointment defines his role as dealing with economic affairs, but in the future he will apparently also be entrusted with other matters.

When China and Israel established relations, Israel promised that it would not maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan. At the request of the Taiwanese Government, Israel established a commercial legation in Taipei in 1992. In the past, China has specified that Israel must take a very careful approach to relations between the two countries, and restrict contacts with Taiwan to the economic sphere. The Chinese have protested Israeli arms sales to Taiwan. Last year, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin decided to "lower the profile" of Israel's defense ties with Taipei.

### Commentary: Suspend Cairo Agreement Provisions

*TA1508154594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Aug 94 pp 1, 19*

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Changing the Rules of the Game"]

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[Text] Yesterday's two shooting incidents demonstrated in a very convincing manner that Israelis traveling between the Green Line and the Qatif Bloc do not enjoy an appropriate level of security.

Security logic and political wisdom require that Israel immediately change the rules of the security game in the Kissufim road until further notice. This road leading from the Green Line to the Qatif Bloc is a notorious trouble spot.

Yesterday the chief of staff beefed up IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces around the Qatif Bloc, but increasing IDF manpower without preserving their freedom of action will not do much good. The Palestinian police and security forces have not been very successful or willing to act firmly against the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists who have operated on this road several times.

The joint patrols along this road are good as a political confidence-building measure, but they do not provide security for travelers. Therefore Israel is fully justified ethically and legally to temporarily suspend the Cairo agreement provisions and inform the Palestinian Authority it is forced to assume full responsibility for security along this road.

The joint patrols should be suspended; IDF forces will patrol along the road around the clock (if terrorists operate there almost freely, it is preferable that they encounter IDF forces rather than a civilian vehicle); Arab vehicles will not be permitted to travel along this route. These new rules will prevail until the Palestinian forces deploy in the area in such a way as to permit Israel to reintroduce the Cairo agreement provisions. We must not provide the opponents of the agreement with an achievement or implement any measures which will endanger this agreement. Therefore the deviation from the Cairo provisions will be limited to the Kissufim road only.

These steps—or similar steps—will not merely provide Israelis traveling to or from the Qatif Bloc with more security; they will also deliver a clear message to the Palestinian Authority: Both sides alike must honor the agreement. There is also another message here: Israel will behave in a similar fashion in any traffic axis in the Gaza Strip or Jericho enclave which will be a focus of rejectionist organizations' terrorism without the Palestinian security forces trying to halt them effectively.

There are additional measures that can be considered: For example, Israelis traveling along the route can be restricted to convoys escorted by large IDF forces. It is also possible to limit the movement of Palestinian vehicles and forbid them to overtake Israeli vehicles. Such measures, however, will not prevent attacks and will not provide an appropriate level of security.

'Arafat will probably appeal to international public opinion and pressure is bound to be exerted on Israel. It is also likely that Hamas and the other rejectionist organizations will double their efforts to harm traffic along this road in order to prove that even the IDF cannot guarantee the safety of Israelis there. But Israel must primarily do everything possible to provide security to its citizens traveling along the Qatif Bloc-Kissufim road. It must make this absolutely clear to both the Palestinians and the international community.

If Israel fails to implement firm measures now, it could be forced to do so at a later stage in a much more drastic manner both in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho enclave.

### Paper Favors Continued Dialogue With North Korea

*TA1508101794 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Aug 94 p 9*

[Editorial: "North Korea's Missiles"]

[Text] The agreement achieved in Geneva last weekend on reducing North Korean nuclear activity in exchange for normalization in its relations with the United States constitutes a significant achievement in the nuclear nonproliferation efforts. It appears that the death of the tough Kim Il-song has brought about a certain moderation in North Korea—the last bastion of Stalinism and the Cold War—which has straddled dangerously close to a nuclear war.

Just as in other countries that used to belong to the communist camp, what is at stake here is North Korea's desire to extricate itself from international isolation and to reap the benefits of the economic opportunities being opened now to all the countries willing to abandon their militant policy and join the family of nations interested in regional and worldwide peaceful coexistence. It must be emphasized that this agreement in principle is only the first stage. It includes a hint of things to come, but without any unequivocal and irrevocable commitments. North Korea has indeed undertaken not to produce any more plutonium—a material necessary for the production of nuclear weapons—but it did not commit itself regarding the stores of plutonium it already possesses, according to reliable assessments.

The agreement is very important from Israel's point of view, because North Korea is at present the largest supplier of sophisticated weapons to the Middle East. It sells sophisticated missiles—Scuds and others—to our worst enemies. It provides Iran, Iraq, Libya, and even Syria with nonconventional capabilities. Iran's nuclear weapons program, one of whose declared targets is Israel, is being aided mainly by North Korea.

Israel's dialogue with North Korea commenced some time ago with a visit of Eytan Bentzur, the Foreign Ministry deputy director general, to the capital of that country. The purpose of the dialogue was, among other things, to freeze the supply of sophisticated North Korean weapons to the Middle East. The Israeli Government, in a panic and with extreme shortsightedness, succumbed to U.S. pressure to stop these contacts. The

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United States is now doing itself what it forbade us to do, at the same time failing to ensure that the agreement achieved will guarantee the Middle East peace interests by putting an end to the sale of sophisticated North Korean weapons to extremist countries and elements in the Arab and Muslim world.

The lesson Israel must draw from this is that it must not subordinate its security and political interests to the whims of the U.S. Administration. We must make supreme efforts to coordinate our activities with this most friendly superpower, but without self- effacement. This holds true regarding every possibility of maintaining a dialogue with extremist elements that want to change their attitude by talking to us. it is indeed possible that so far there have been no appeals to Israel by serious Iraqi or Iranian elements. If such appeals are made, however, and if they seem serious and in tune with Israel's security needs, we must accept or examine them thoroughly, even if Washington does not like it.

### Commentary on Influential Position With U.S.

*TA1608173994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Aug 94 p B1*

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Brokers Limited"]

[Text] The reports on the purported contacts between Israel and Iraq appear to be an August mirage, but I would not rule them out. These reports were preceded by reports on secret contacts with Iran, and even on a secret dialogue with al-Qadhdhafi. These reports are not necessarily correct, but they are also not necessarily fallacious.

Israel has the reputation of opening the doors to America. This reputation is grounded in fact, even if it is not completely correct. In some cases our clout in the United States helps. If our finance minister were craftier, he would have issued Israel in the largest stock markets in the world under its real trade name, "Brokers Limited," thus starting to make money out of what many countries are asking us to do free of charge—opening the doors to the United States for them.

Take Egypt for example. If one day we give up, God forbid, the U.S. aid in a fit of national pride, Egypt will be the first one to mourn for 40 days and nights, because since we signed the peace treaty with Egypt it has received from the United States—thanks to us—some $50 billion. Egypt never submits its annual aid request to the United States before it examines what Israel has received.

To date Israel's magic touch has been attributed to the mystical belief of many nations in the veracity of the Protocol of the Elders of Zion, which claims that the Jews have control over international power and finance centers. Never has such a groundless anti-Semitic document done us such service as this document, even though it was not Eytan Haber [head of Rabin's bureau] who composed it. We have proved that where there is smoke there is fire; in two cases the myth saying that he who is okay with us receives both U.S. honor and funds has been proven true. 'Arafat and Husayn received spectacular receptions in the United States, and both were promised as a first serving $3.2 billion from the United States and the donor countries, all this at our initiative and thanks to their ties with us.

Now it is no longer a mystical myth about our "control" over power and finance centers, but rather a reality. We wield "influence," we open doors. Small wonder that it is difficult to walk around in this country without bumping into some minister, prince, king, prime minister et cetera, who are visiting us with a non-concealed hope that we open doors for them in America. CIS heads of state and ministers, African and Asian leaders, and representatives of large powers such as Japan and China all seek our influence in that direction. A Foreign Ministry official I queried about this issue admitted it would take him two-three days to prepare a list of all the foreign visitors who frequented our shores over the last two years.

I even suspect that Warren Christopher is eager to visit our region as much as possible in the hope we will influence Clinton to leave him in his post. Clinton himself, who has great faith in the Jews magical powers, is convinced we brought him to power in 1992, and therefore he is keeping us as a lucky charm for the 1996 election.

Obviously things are more complicated than that. Had Bush and Baker in the United States and the Likud in Israel won the last elections, not even the janitor of the Estonian Foreign Ministry would have come here. The power triangle on which Israel depends is made up of U.S. Jewry, the U.S. Administration, and Congress. The power of U.S. Jewry is not a constant. It increases when Israel's policy coincides with U.S. interests and wanes when the administration is dissatisfied with Israel. Congress is Israel's insurance policy, but only as long as it feels that Israel's policy justifies the enormous aid which is being forwarded to it in this difficult period of cutbacks. This triangle disintegrates as soon as one sides of the triangle collapses. The legend about our clout in America is ancient, but it has not always been true. Our reputation as middlemen to the heart of the U.S. establishment made headway only during the last two years, thanks to Yitzhaq Rabin.

Rabin has always maintained that the United States should have the central role in determining Israel's status. It is noticeable that as prime minister he has not changed his political concept regarding the territories and has even adopted it to U.S. interests. Rabin has also softened his behavior and can be seen smiling and laughing. He is even evincing personal warmth in tune with the American custom. Rabin has come a long way from refusing to stroke the cheeks of President Carter's daughter in 1976. Now it is possible to say that there have never been better relationships between an Israeli

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prime minister and an American President than those between Rabin and Clinton.

Perhaps we have lost some independence along the way, but meanwhile—as all those courting our favors us sense—we are worth our weight in gold.

### Arab Prisoners Protest Alleged Segregation

*TA1608181894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] More than 3,000 of the security detainees who are jailed in Prison Service's facilities have been staging a hunger strike since this morning. This was learned by our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov. The prisoners protest what they call a new policy of separating territories' prisoners and Israeli Arabs. In reaction, the Prison Service's spokeswoman said that there is no segregation policy but that prisoners are rather moved to facilities which are close to their homes.

### Official Reacts to Germany's Plutonium Seizure

*TA1708051394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] Germany has informed Israel that the suitcase seized at Munich Airport last week contained 100 to 300 grams of plutonium that could be used for making a bomb.

The deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry, Eytan Ben-Tzur, says Israel sought information on the smuggled plutonium because it is concerned about the constant leakage of equipment, information, and dangerous materials to countries which, in his words, are not pro-peace.

Ben-Tzur told Qol Yisra'el that the recent incidents involving quantities of plutonium demonstrate that controls over nuclear materials are inadequate. He said that Israel would increase its cooperation with a number of states in order to foil the smuggling of these materials from country to country.

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## Prime Minister on Domestic, Regional Affairs

*JN1708113294 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic*
*17 Aug 94 p 14*

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, published jointly by al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ and Amman AL-ASWAQ, by Shakir al-Jawhari; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jawhari] Your Excellency the prime minister, please allow me to begin by asking you a question on a local issue that has begun to take on a political dimension. It is the case of Jordanian citizen Muhammad Isma'il Abyuq, who is accused of killing his American wife, who is a Turk of Circassian origin. About two days ago it was published that the defendant's two children were put in villa hired by the government under custody of their maternal aunt and their grandmother on their father's side, awaiting a court ruling on this case, which was filed by the aunt. How true is this?

[Al-Majali] First of all, there is no political dimension in the sense you mentioned. Of course some people like to view this case from a political standpoint, but according to the shar'iah [Islamic law] the custody of children goes to the grandmother, the mother of the children's mother, then to the aunt, whether they are Jordanians or not. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] But when the U.S. secretary of state interfered and opened the file of the case with his majesty the king, he did not follow the acknowledged procedures for such a case.

[Al-Majali] No, he did follow the acknowledged procedures and he was very polite and decent. He said: members of Congress from the state in which the murder was committed are demanding the application of legal procedures, these are the documents, and we hope for a quick response if it is possible. His majesty the king's reply was that we are doing so not as a result of pressures, but on the basis of right, justice, and law.

[Al-Jawhari] Your Excellency the Prime Minister, very frankly, there are substantial fears among the citizens that this style of dealing with Jordan by the United States indicates the shape of the future relationship between the United States and Jordan, which has defied certain U.S. policies in recent years.

[Al-Majali] I do not think so. We have not changed, and we will not change. Those who do not have self-confidence think that such things can take place. He who has self-confidence and who knows his position and who is aware of law and order will remain faithful to their position, whatever the price. Jordan has been, and will continue to be firm in its positions. It had paid a great deal in the past for its firm positions, but it continued the same.

[Al-Jawhari] By the way, Your Excellency the Prime Minister, his majesty the king had said Jordan will not resume bilateral talks with Israel until the U.S. siege imposed on al-'Aqabah is lifted. A mechanism for lifting the siege was reached, and the sea inspections were replaced by onshore inspections, but this was not implemented. When will the onshore inspections begin?

[Al-Majali] First of all, there are no sea inspections at present. What was agreed on with Lloyds was not inspection, because that would conflict with our sovereignty. It was agreed that Lloyds would monitor and check the goods imported for Iraq and then send reports on them if these goods violate the Security Council resolutions.

[Al-Jawhari] If there is no sea inspection now, then why ask for onshore inspections?

[Al-Majali] I told you that this was a substitute in order to stop the sea inspection, and this procedure was agreed on because our argument, which was a sincere one, was that we unfairly suffered from inspections. If sea inspections continued it would be an unjustified punishment of the Jordanian economy. The sea inspection was replaced by onshore monitoring. We are a UN member state who abides by UN rules. The decision concerning inspections should be applied in a manner that does not economically harms us.

[Al-Jawhari] Will this measure be implemented, and, if so, when?

[Al-Majali] It has been implemented.

[Al-Jawhari] What about Saudi Arabia's reported obstruction of the reshipment to Jordan of commodities imported through Jeddah Port?

[Al-Majali] I have learned that there are Jordan-bound commodities at the transit section at Jeddah Port, that they have been unloaded because of the unavailability of ships with sufficient loading capacity, and that the customs director there wants to inspect them.

I believe that this is an incidental matter with no political implications. However, let us wait and see.

[Al-Jawhari] In other words, this has happened only once and has not been repeated?

[Al-Majali] The first time we heard about this issue was two days ago.

[Al-Jawhari] Have contacts been held with the Saudi brothers in this regard?

[Al-Majali] Of course. I have instructed the Foreign Ministry to inform them of this. No answer has been received yet.

[Al-Jawhari] Recently there have been several media reports on a Jordanian effort to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq by having it involved in multilateral negotiations. How true is this?

[Al-Majali] These reports are irrelevant. However, we believe that regional peace will not be comprehensive

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and durable unless Iraq is a party to it. This is my personal opinion. But will Iraq participate? That is up to the Iraqis.

Many Arab countries that are not directly concerned with the negotiations have joined the multilateral negotiations, such as Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, Egypt, and other countries.

Syria took part in the bilateral negotiations, but did not take part in the multilaterals.

Each country has its own circumstances. However, Iraq has neither joined the multilateral nor the bilateral negotiations. We believe that Iraq is a basic part of the Arab homeland and of this region in particular. Therefore, its participation is necessary for peace.

[Al-Jawhari] Has Jordan sought to turn this conviction into reality?

[Al-Majali] We have never sought anything of this sort. We have no intention of urging others do something if they do not do it by themselves.

[Al-Jawhari] Reports have also talked about semi-direct contacts between Iraqi and Israeli diplomats in European states. Does Jordan have any information about this?

[Al-Majali] We do not have any information in this regard at all.

[Al-Jawhari] Let us move, Mr. Prime Minister, to Jordanian-Palestinian relations and a Palestinian delegation's recent visit to Amman, which seems to have come at an inappropriate time, for you were busy with the al-'Aqabah meeting and the inauguration of the Wadi al-'Arabah crossing. How are the Jordanian-Palestinian relations proceeding now?

[Al-Majali] Although both sides speak of a distinguished Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, it is very regrettable that coordination is absent. From the outset, and since the Madrid conference and earlier on, Jordan has been trying to effect actual and practical coordination. However, coordination remained nonexistent.

Everyone talks about coordination. We have always excused our brothers in the region for being preoccupied with major issues. Therefore, detailed coordination, especially regarding the infrastructure was not easy for them.

However, presently, I believe that the absence of coordination is harmful, especially for the brother Palestinians, who are in the process of establishing their entity, whereas Jordan is a sovereign state and is behaving as such.

A distinguished relationship necessitates coordination. However, regrettably, this is nonexistent.

The Palestinian delegation's visit, as you have suggested, was surprising, and took place at a time when we had plenty of things to do. It was received by the minister of state for foreign affairs. The delegation addressed some questions and received answers, especially regarding the Jerusalem issue. Afterward, members of the delegation made statements, which were published by most of the mass media.

[Al-Jawhari] Will there be a meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Majali] Nothing has been set and no official request was made. The brother members of the delegation said that there is a desire for such a meeting to be held. Of course, this desire is reciprocated on this side. But no date has been set.

[Al-Jawhari] Mr. Prime Minister, it seems that 'Arafat's character was stamped by skepticism and wariness of everything during the years he was at the head of the Palestinian revolution. Are these character traits the cause for his abstaining at the present time from coordinating with Jordan or is it due to factors having to do with regional political equations?

[Al-Majali] I cannot fully answer this question. However, we must keep in mind that President 'Arafat spent a long time as chairman of the PLO, which was inclined to military and violent solutions. Thus, it is not easy for an institution or any person to diametrically change course.

Thus, the nature of the work 'Arafat used to carry out in the past as PLO chairman, not to mention the fedayeen and the military operations dictated on him, may cause him to doubt all people. But, the present circumstances do not permit the pursuit of this line of thought.

At present, relations should be based on self-confidence and on trusting others, and on the fact that we have the same fate. There is no doubt about this. We must trust one another.

[Al-Jawhari] How can confidence-building measures between the two sides be enhanced?

[Al-Majali] Through our daily approach to all issues, and through the services we extend to the other side. In my opinion, I believe we offered our brothers all that we could offer them, starting with the umbrella for the Palestinian delegation, and our rejection of negotiating or signing on their behalf. All these stands are stands that should have enhanced trust. In addition to all this, there is the good treatment of the Palestinian officials on the bridges, the speed with which meetings are arranged for them, the immediate response to their demands, the training of the Palestinian police force, even the special guard, and providing them with military uniforms, cars, and weapons.

All these are confidence-building measures. We have no design other than allowing them to become capable of winning their national rights and allowing them to have a say with respect to their future and what they want to do with it.

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[Al-Jawhari] Some Hebron inhabitants recently called for Jordanian care for the holy shrines to extend to the al-Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron. This care has not ceased since the Hebron inhabitants gave King 'Abdallah the keys to their city during the 1948 war. How does Jordan intend to tackle these calls?

[Al-Majali] Jordan continues to take care of the al-Ibrahimi mosque and of the sharia courts throughout the occupied territories (West Bank). We pay their salaries and the maintenance costs. It is wrong to say that something new has taken place. All the people know the relationship that exists between the Hashemites and al-Aqsa, how King Husayn I lost his throne because of the Palestinian cause. He was buried in Jerusalem. Everyone also knows how King 'Abdallah was martyred in Jerusalem. After 1948, Jerusalem became part of the unified state established between the East and West Banks.

In 1967 when Israel occupied the West Bank, it accepted that we continue to be the custodians of the holy places. When the disengagement decision was issued in 1988, the PLO asked us to continue our role in the holy places.

What should we have told the Israelis when we went to Washington concerning this relation since they are the ones who accepted this role in 1967 after the occupation? Should we have told them that we abandoned this role because we reached an agreement with you, or should this role continue until the situation is changed? This is what it amounts to.

[Al-Jawhari] Does Israel's recognition of the Jordanian custodianship of al-Aqsa Mosque indirectly mean a concession regarding Jewish claims to the Wailing Wall and Solomon's Temple?

[Al-Majali] They did not say this. Regarding the Wailing Wall, this is a long story. The two sides have agreed on procedures concerning this issue. What is meant by custodianship is custodianship of the Islamic waqf there, not only al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. The Jordanian custodianship has not been interrupted. What is needed is a solution to the question of to whom jurisdiction should pass in the future. This is what the people want to know, and this was what his majesty the king meant when he asked all Islamic sects to discuss and agree on this subject. The holy places are not for the Jordanians or the Palestinians. They are not for the Arabs alone, but for all Muslims wherever they might be. They are partners, but of course in accordance with their proximity to these places. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Bassam Haddadin, who was the deputy secretary general and member of the political bureau of Hashd [the Jordanian People's Democratic Party] has recently disclosed that this party is merely an extension of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. This is against the law. How do you intend to deal with this case?

[Al-Majali] This is the concern of the Interior Ministry, which will act if this is proven. The Interior Ministry should act if the charge is proven. We are very tolerant and our objective is the success of this [democratic] experiment.

### Al-'Anani Holds Meeting With EC Representatives

*JN1608171694 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Minister of Information Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has met in his office with the ambassadors and representatives of the European Community accredited to Jordan. During the meeting, relations between Jordan and the EC members, especially economics and the peace process in the region, were discussed, as well as other issues of common concern.

Dr. al-'Anani said he briefed the ambassadors on the ongoing Jordan-Israel peace process and illustrated certain economic issues of interest to both sides. He said: The meeting comes at a time when Jordan is trying to ease its foreign debt burden. The minister said some EC countries, like the United Kingdom, responded to the kingdom's demands, and expressed hope that other members would take similar positions.

Dr. al-'Anani said the talks dealt with the forthcoming Casablanca economic conference where Jordan will present economic projects that require financing and need European contribution, because the projects need the highest standard of technology. The minister said a key function of the recently established Higher Commission for Development and Modernization, chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, was to amend laws in order to create a healthy and amenable investment atmosphere that will attract investors into Jordan, create employment opportunities, and develop economic resources. He said: Consequently, Jordan's abilities to be competitive in the aftermath of the Middle East peace will be enhanced. The minister said Jordan will present a number of working papers at the Casablanca meeting dealing with investment in Jordan and its legal aspects, as well as trade issues.

### Iraqi Role in Talks, Pressure on Syria Linked

*JN1608200694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Aug 94 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat from Amman]

[Excerpt] Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali yesterday held talks with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz on "the latest regional and international developments" amid speculations that Iraq may participate in the Middle East peace process by joining the multilateral negotiations.

The official Jordanian News Agency, PETRA, said the two sides "exchanged views and discussed the overall situation in the region in a way that will serve the interest

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of the fraternal Jordanian and Iraqi peoples." The Iraqi deputy prime minister's talks in Amman were held in the wake of Israeli hints that Iraq may participate in the regional economic and security arrangements linked to the peace settlement.

Western diplomatic sources said the United States had indirectly suggested that Iraq join the Middle East multilateral negotiations in return for lifting the economic embargo imposed on Baghdad. These sources explained to AL-HAYAH that the United States and Israel may pressure Syria by initiating either a direct or an indirect dialogue with the Iraqi leadership as part of the peace process in order to convince Damascus that it should move quickly to avoid being weakened in the region by giving a role to Iraq.

Observers believe that Iraq's agreement on joining the multilateral negotiations may increase the pressure on Syria, which, along with Lebanon, has thus far refused to join these negotiations. Official Jordanian sources believe Amman can play an important role in "rehabilitating Iraq" due to its political stand during the Gulf war and its geographical position between Iraq and Israel. They, however, indicated that Baghdad insists that contacts with the Iraqi leadership should be "direct" and not through a third party. [passage omitted]

## Minister Hails Saudi Support for Peace Process

*JN1608192394 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[From the "News at Ten"]

[Text] Jordan hails Saudi Arabia's support of the Middle East peace process, and said it would boost the efforts of the Arab negotiator.

Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani said Saudi Arabia has an important role to play in the multilateral peace talks. He told the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, that he hopes that Saudi participation in the multilateral talks would be strong, particularly in the water, environment, economic development, and security and disarmament working groups.

## Minister Views PNA Decison on Awqaf Ministry

*JN1508111994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Aug 94 pp 1, 24*

[Report by Ahmad al-Shuruf]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] has decided to establish an Awqaf Ministry to supervise the al-Aqsa Mosque and Islamic holy shrines.

Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Sirdanah, under secretary of the Ministry of Justice in the PNA, announced the decision through Voice of Palestine radio.

Shaykh Abu-Sirdanah denied any differences between the PNA and other Arab parties regarding this issue. He noted that the main problem regarding Jerusalem and the holy shrines has to do with the Israeli occupation and that the Arabs and Muslims should cooperate to end this occupation. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, minister of state for legal and parliamentary affairs commented on this issue by saying that his majesty's Hashemite mandate [over the holy shrines in Jerusalem] is eternal and that the Arabs and Muslims do not contest this fact.

He said that what is meant by this mandate is that it is for all Arabs and Muslims. If the party which announced the above decision is capable of establishing an efficient and recognized Awqaf Ministry then let it do so and we will support it. We, in Jordan, under the leadership of King Husayn, support every Palestinian and Arab right. We strongly support all the oppressed on earth. Moreover, we will not prevent the PLO from exercising control over all its territories and borders.

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## Hizballah's Nasrallah on Peace, Other Issues

*JN1608125194 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic*
*17-23 Aug 94 pp 23, 29*

[Interview with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah by Muslih al-Habahibah; date and place not given]

[Text] [Al-Habahibah] Your party is known to form the backbone of Islamic resistance in Lebanon. How do you view the peace between two Arab countries [Egypt and Lebanon] with Israel, while it mounts aggression in south Lebanon?

[Nasrallah] Before and since the Madrid conference, we have been clear on any negotiations. These can only produce peace on American and Israeli terms and to the detriment of the Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims. We have said and will continue to say until judgment day that we are against any settlement with the entity that has robbed us of Jerusalem and Palestine. For us, a just and real settlement to the Middle East problem should provide for rights to be restored and usurpers to be repatriated to whence they came.

[Al-Habahibah] In your opposition to the settlement that is being worked out with the Zionist enemy you proceed from the sharia verdict. Can you define this?

[Nasrallah] Israel's presence in Palestine and in other Arab territory is one of a usurper. It is the duty of all Muslims to defend their territory and recapture their sacred shrines. Moreover, the Zionist project is one of hegemony and control over this nation's resources and riches and excluding Muslims. It is a duty to defend these resources and people and topple any plan by the arrogant or Zionists to take over our countries and peoples. The one course open to us if we are to abort this plan is through resistance and jihad.

[Al-Habahibah] Apologists of peacemaking with the enemy quote the Koranic verse: but if the enemy incline toward peace, do thou also incline toward peace. How do you react?

[Nasrallah] These are fallacies used by certain rulers assisted in that effort by some preachers and religious scholars who have no fear of God. The Israelis are not sitting on a land they can rightly call theirs; we are on our land. There is a problem between us which we want solved. The Israelis are wicked enemies; they aggressed on our land, looted our homes, seized our holy sites, killed our people, and slaughtered our children, and are guilty of daily acts of aggression. How can one sanction the occupation of one's home and make peace with the occupier of one's home based on the Koranic verse you quoted? This runs counter to the most basic of the sharia rules known to Muslims throughout the world.

[Al-Habahibah] Assuming Lebanon signed a peace treaty with Israel, what will your position be then? Will you still be in a state of war with the Zionist enemy even if it pulls back behind the international borders with Lebanon?

[Nasrallah] We reject any peace treaty with the usurper Zionist enemy as a matter of principle, whichever Arab country may sign such a pact. How we propose to come to terms with such a treaty will have to wait until we learn the circumstances surrounding such a development.

[Al-Habahibah] Recently, accusations that Hizballah is terrorist have escalated. It was accused of bombing the Israeli Embassy in Argentina in 1992 and now it is accused of bombing the head office of Jewish societies in Argentina. What is your response to this?

[Nasrallah] We heard these accusations a few hours after the blasts. This indicates the mentality and the way the Israelis judge things. They make judgments without evidence, justification, or proof of their accusations and claims. They are always trying to employ any bombing or event in the world in the interest of their political designs. The Israelis try to attack anyone they consider a problem or an obstacle to their objectives, first of whom are Hizballah and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

From the first day, we denied our link to and responsibility for these blasts. We view these Israeli accusations as an attempt to prepare public opinion for the launching of the increased aggressions which the Israeli enemy has recently been carrying out against us. The Israeli enemy considers the presence of Hizballah and the Islamic resistance in Lebanon as an escalating Islamic jihad movement, threatening its interests and hegemonistic plans. It also considers it a factor that instigates the peoples of the region. This scares and worries the Israelis a great deal.

[Al-Habahibah] Hizballah is often accused of being an Iranian arm in Lebanon. How do you respond to these accusations?

[Nasrallah] We are not an arm of anyone. We practice our Islam, our religion, and our convictions. Our Islam tells us this settlement is rejected. Our Islam tells us we must liberate our territories and restore our holy sites. Our Koran tells us to reject the hegemony of the Jews on the land of the Muslims. Our Islam calls on us to carry the rifle and fight the occupiers and usurpers.

It is a source of pride when Iran or any other country speaks with the same logic of Islam. When we, from our Islamic position, meet with Iran, from its own Islamic position, or with any Islamic movement or country in the world, this does not mean that we are practicing the policy of this country or that movement. We are practicing our religion, Islam, taking into consideration the interest of our nation as it is embodied by this Islam. Therefore, we, in Lebanon, proceeded from our own will and are carrying out our own decisions based on our Islamic convictions and vision. This is in addition to the fact that we, Iran, and many Islamic movements drink from the same spring of Islam.

Hence, it is natural for things to seem close or similar in terms of positions, language, inclination, and track.

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Therefore, we find there are many Islamic movements that speak with the same logic and language. They may not have a routine or ordinary relationship with Iran, but are accused of having a relationship with it. Meanwhile, Iran is being accused of financing Islamic movements that do not have any relationship with it.

In all cases, today's arrogant world, considers the Islamic awakening throughout the Arab and Islamic world a danger to its interests. It considers this awakening a project aimed at moving this nation toward restoring its identity, decision making, entity, and sovereignty. The world considers Iran a strong and pivotal country which could be a big and real resource for all Islamic movements in the world. Therefore, it is always trying to portray any Islamic movement, resistance, uprising, or organization as a political or intelligence organization affiliated with Iran. This is an attempt to confiscate or distort Iran's moves and those of Islamic movements, as well as to empty the issue of its real contents in terms of the Islamic awakening and the nation's alertness to restore its identity.

[Al-Habahibah] Under the canopy of the new world order and the quick pace of the settlement steps, the features of a new alliance have surfaced among those who are concluding peace under a U.S. aegis. What plans do you have to set up an alliance among the forces that oppose the settlement, particularly among the Islamic forces that have a major role in the opposition?

[Nasrallah] The Islamic movements come together in their positions, even if their leaders do not meet in person in specific places. They are allied because every Islamic movement, whether in Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, or any Islamic country, rejects any capitulatory solution with the Israeli enemy. They all believe that Palestine belongs to the Palestinian people and to the nation, and that all of it should return to its legitimate owners. Some Islamic movements are currently holding contacts in an attempt to develop positions. Of course, we call for the broadest possible alliance among Islamists themselves and among the Islamic trend and the pan-Arab and national trends that still exist in the Arab homeland and that still reject any capitulatory solutions with the Israeli enemy. The confrontation of this scheme requires action of a similar nature by all the trends nationwide. Although the Islamists currently constitute the vanguard of these trends at the popular level, it is not enough for the Islamists to shoulder, alone, the responsibility for this confrontation. They should open up as much as they can to any nationalist or pan-Arab trend or figure in our region to form a broad national and pan-Arab Islamic grouping to confront the peace process and its results. I believe more contacts are needed in the next stage to consolidate ties and alliances of this type to establish a solid and firm stand, God willing.

[Al-Habahibah] Hizballah has started to raise the slogan of an Islamic republic in Lebanon. However, it seems that it has gone back on this, and is involved in the political game. It is participating in the present political system through the Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc in the Chamber of Deputies. How do you explain this?

[Nasrallah] When I explain this issue, you will see that there is no policy change. From the beginning, we absolutely did not raise the slogan of establishing an Islamic republic in Lebanon. We raised the following slogan: We call for the establishment of an Islamic regime in Lebanon on the basis of free choice and the Lebanese people's will. This provision was officially included in the first political document Hizballah issued in 1985 following the first Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. At the time, this was called the open letter that Hizballah issued stating its identity and course of action. In it, we said we do not want to establish an Islamic state in Lebanon by force, but that we want to convince our people that such a state will be a good thing, and that if our people opt for the Islamic regime, we will then work to establish this regime.

This policy stems from our conviction that in order to establish a just and real Islamic regime in any Islamic country, the plan to set up an Islamic state should enjoy the widest possible popular support. This concept has never changed since we declared it in 1985. In 1994, I also tell you that we in Lebanon still aspire, hope, work, and call for establishing an Islamic regime based on enjoying the widest possible popular support. We do not want to establish an Islamic state by force because doing so conflicts with the justice sought by Islam in this kind of community. Thus, our position, slogan, and views have not changed. We believe that joining the Chamber of Deputies does not conflict with adopting this slogan and option. This is because we have taken a resistance position in each arena, whether in the Chamber of Deputies or in the arenas of political, social, or cultural action. We have not changed. We are an Islamic movement that calls for Islam in all forums and expresses the Islamic position on jihad, politics, and people's issues. By so doing, our idea and plan will become closer to people.

[Al-Habahibah] There are many reports that Hizballah will be victimized if a settlement is reached on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Is this true?

[Nasrallah] First, this is perhaps a premature judgment. So far, it has not been clear what will happen on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. In any case, however, whenever a settlement is reached with the Israeli enemy, this enemy always tries to impose its own terms. We know that the presence of militant Islamic movements and national liberation movements in the Arab World is a source of much annoyance and concern for the U.S. Administration and the Zionist enemy. Hence, they will seriously and actively try to weaken, impede, or place real obstacles before this type of movement, not only in Lebanon but also throughout the Arab World. They may also stipulate that the Arab regimes should oppress, terminate, or freeze these movements. We believe that it

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is natural to consider such possibilities. However, the Islamic or liberation movements cannot actually be sold and bought easily. This is because these movements are part of their people, nation, and masses' will. It is thus not easy to bargain over the heads of these movements or to destroy these movements, nor is it easy for them to comply with the enemy's terms.

[Al-Habahibah] A while ago you initiated contacts with some Christian figures in Lebanon. How far along are they? Have they served their purpose?

[Nasrallah] The contacts are ongoing. The aim behind such contacts is to get to know each other. The barriers and contact lines of the civil war kept us from making each other's acquaintance. Whatever knowledge about each other we have is drawn from the media or from hostile sources. We wanted the Christians to get the true picture about Hizballah. At the same time, we wanted to listen to find out about their agendas in Lebanon. For our part, we are interested in a measure of national popular consensus. We have also sought to muster as much support as possible for the resistance and to obtain a united internal front as we stand up to the Israeli enemy and Zionist project. I believe we have managed some progress, even though the Christian side has yet to come out with a clearly supportive position on resistance. However, they have, on quite a few occasions, condemned Israeli aggression. That was something new. We plan to keep the dialogue going, given that the Christians are just as Lebanese as we are. I think understanding and coexistence must form the bedrock of society in Lebanon.

[Al-Habahibah] In the wake of the abduction of al-Hajj Abu- 'Ali al-Dirani, the Zionist enemy said they had obtained important information from him about Hizballah. How much credence do you put in the Israeli claim?

[Nasrallah] I believe they are lying. The information the Israelis say they obtained is known to everyone and does not warrant Israel's abduction of al-Hajj Abu-'Ali al-Dirani to extract it. Besides, he was not privy to such information. What was said about locations and the movement of the Israeli enemy thus far does not point to their having gained any intelligence about our positions. Even the camp bombarded in Ba'labakk cannot be described as a secret uncovered after the abduction of al-Dirani. Israel's aircraft fly unchallenged in Lebanon day and night and can locate such camps without much difficulty. In any case, movement in southern Lebanon is not easy and takes place under complex circumstances for the resistance. What has been reported about al-Dirani is pure fabrication; it is groundless.

[Al-Habahibah] What is your message to the opponents of the peace settlement?

[Nasrallah] To put it in a nutshell, what is unfolding in the Arab world can't be more ignominious and insulting; there has never been anything like it in our history. We are now placing our bet on the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and others. When al-Sadat made peace with Israel, there were Egyptians who took a negative stand on normalization and peace. But we thought then that all was not lost and we hoped something might happen in the future. Now the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples have formidable responsibilities. The mujahidin, the faithful, Muslims, and freedom lovers throughout the world look expectantly to them. Islamic, nationalist, and pan- Arab forces, as well as the people there should rise to the challenge of the disaster and embark on historic action.

## Nasrallah Assails U.S. Stand on Israeli 'Aggression'

*NC1608092094 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Aug 94 p 6*

[Excerpts] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has criticized the American position on Israeli aggression against Lebanon. He said that America's problem lies with those who reject Israel's hegemony over our countries. Nasrallah was speaking at a Hizballah rally in a school in Burj al-Barajinah to mark the passage of one week since the martyrdom of Mundhir Hasan Rammal and Husayn 'Ali Karim. [passage omitted]

Nasrallah said: Today we are witnessing a major Jewish ascent and unprecedented corruption on earth that make us feel that the divine promise of triumphing over Jews is approaching its fulfillment. [reference to al-Isra' verse in the Koran] With its masters and allies, Israel seeks to control everything. The region is at a significant historical crossroads.

The Hizballah secretary general said that "the American arbiter," which is viewed as a guarantor in the ongoing peace process, could not keep silent on the killing of Jews in Argentina and is wrongly and unjustly condemning Iran. But the hundreds of civilians killed in the south and western al-Biqa', the victims of the seven-day war, and the martyrs of the Dayr al-Zahrani massacre are over and done with for Christopher, because a mistake was committed and Israel has apologized.

He added: Let us assume for the sake of argument that one of those being accused by America and Israel had actually committed that act in Argentina and said that it was a mistake and apologized. Would Israel and America accept his apology and close the case? Of course not. They believe that the blood shed in Dayr al-Zahrani was slaves' blood, while Jewish blood is the blood of God's chosen people; the blood of men who have rights. But those who were murdered in Dayr al-Zahrani were not human and not entitled to any rights.

Nasrallah continued: We read in the papers today that Israel has started to test new missiles against the resistance; we heard threats. We also heard Christopher say that the region's problem is Hizballah and not the Israeli aggressor. Christopher's logic is that the problem lies with those who say no to Israel's hegemony over our

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people, region, and country and stand up and say: We are human and are not slaves of the Americans and Jews. [passage omitted]

### 'High Tension' Prevails Along South 'Contact Lines'

*NC1708060394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] Reports from the south this morning say high tension prevails on the contact lines between the occupied and liberated areas. Israeli military movements have been reported in the occupied strip following resistance attacks against enemy forces and their agent militias. Three Lahdists [South Lebanese Army members) were killed and at least two others injured in an operation at the Zummarayya crossing yesterday. The occupation forces closed the crossing and performed an extensive sweep through the area. The occupation militias set up roadblocks inside the occupied areas, and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon declared an alert among the Norwegian unit along the Marj 'Uyun-Hasbayya road.

The areas targeted by the aggression yesterday were the Mimis sector, the hills of al-Dahr, the vicinity of the 'Ayn Fujur farms, and the Marj-al-Zuhur-Mimis road. The resistance retaliated by shelling the Zummarayya crossing and outpost. Meanwhile, Israeli aggressions targeted villages and towns in the south and western al-Biqa'. More than 30 shells fell on the hills between Mashgharah and 'Ayn al-Tinah and the heights of Tall al-Sultanah and Qal'at al- Bahri. The resistance retaliated by shelling enemy and militia positions on the western al-Biqa' front. The Israeli shelling also targeted the al-Jabbur area, where six shells fell, and the vicinity of the power generator in Markaba, which was hit by three shells. [passage omitted]

### Bomb Explodes Near SLA Patrol in South

#### No Injuries Reported

*NC1708102494 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] Two explosive charges planted by saboteurs on the main Kafr Hunah-Jazzin road went off at about 11 today as a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol passed by. There were no injuries among the patrol members or civilians. Afterward the SLA closed the road to civilian cars to make sure no other explosive charges were planted. The road was reopened to traffic a short time ago.

#### 'Resistance' Claims Attack

*NC1708115894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] Two explosive devices were detonated under a Lahd forces' [South Lebanese Army, SLA] patrol on the road between Kafr Hunah and Jazzin at 1100 today.

Lebanese Resistance sources announced that the attack was carried out against a T-54 tank and that its crew were either killed or wounded.

After the attack, Lahd forces closed the Kafr Huna-Jazzin road and mounted a search.

Israeli combat aircraft this morning flew reconnaissance sorties at a low altitude over the south, concentrating on Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah.

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## Damascus Radio on Israel's Need To Withdraw

### Withdrawal 'Password' To Peace

*JN1108135894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Aug 94*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Syria has reaffirmed its eagerness to achieve a just, comprehensive, and viable peace, based on Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy. Although this objective seems difficult to achieve, it requires nothing more than a commitment by all the parties to the foundations of the peace process, launched by the previous U.S. Administration and pursued by the current U.S. Administration.

The road to a just solution that could spread the umbrella of peace over this region, which has experienced tension for more than half a century, begins by recognizing international resolutions and by a clear Israeli announcement of its willingness to withdraw fully from all the Arab territories. Then, there will be no problems that cannot be resolved fairly.

Syria has repeatedly voiced its readiness to meet the requirements for a just and comprehensive peace. This was stated by President Hafiz al-Asad during the Geneva summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton early this year.

It is now clear that Syria has opened all the doors to international efforts to make peace. However, peace has not been achieved so far. Syria is not to blame for this. The other party is to blame, having adhered tenaciously to inflexible positions that do not serve the peace process and banish the current opportunity for peace.

The shuttle tours of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher have proven Syria's responsiveness to the efforts of the cosponsors of the peace process to make this process achieve its objectives.

No doubt, Israel's withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and southern al-Biqa' is the key to the peace process and the password that opens the door wide for peace. As for the rest of the requirements of peace, they are negotiable and are the pivot of the U.S. secretary of state's tours.

As Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said yesterday, the issue of full withdrawal is not negotiable. The other peace requirements that are linked to this withdrawal are sought by all parties, and not only one party. Hence, the security arrangements that Israel demands are also demanded by the Arabs, who need more such arrangements from Israel.

Perhaps, the experience of half a century proves this fact. Over this long period, Arab security has always been threatened, and not the opposite. Furthermore, achieving peace in the region will definitely ensure security and stability in the region. Creating obstacles and setting preconditions, such as security arrangements, before a breakthrough in the peace process is achieved, will delay the achievement of this objective.

Such Israeli proposals do not show goodwill. The first prelude toward the peace of the brave, urged by President Hafiz al-Asad, is a clear, unequivocal Israeli announcement of its readiness to withdraw unconditionally from all the occupied Arab territories, primarily the Golan, southern Lebanon, and southern al-Biqa'. When the leaders of Israel declare this, the peace process will witness a true, serious breakthrough. Syria will respond, as it has done in the past, to any step that could lead to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

### Stresses Need for 'Total Withdrawal'

*JN1508144394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Aug 94*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Yesterday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reiterated the existence of a wide gap between Syria's position and that of Israel on the bases of peace, particularly the extent of Israel's future withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Rabin, however, did not refer to the true reasons, which have enlarged that gap and which have been preventing any true progress in the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

It is natural that Israel's position conflicts with the Syrian position regarding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. The whole world knows Syria wants to regain every inch of its occupied territories, while Israel refuses to show any clear commitment to total withdrawal. Israel, the U.S. sponsor, and the whole world also know that no peace can be achieved with Syria unless Israel carries out a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

Yet, Israel's positions, policies, and practices are still preventing any move toward a just and comprehensive peace. The elements of peace are clear and well known. The requirements of peace do not need much clarification, interpretation, and scrutiny by anyone who wants to establish a just and comprehensive peace and who works honestly and seriously toward that purpose.

The first factor for peace in this region is total withdrawal from all the occupied territories. Only then can other elements and requirements of all parties, rather than this or that party, can be discussed. Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights has been mandated by international legitimacy, UN resolutions, and all states. Moreover, both parties, rather than just one party, are also entitled to security arrangements and other elements of peace.

Israel has placed the issue of security arrangements at the top of a list of its priorities, although these arrangements

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are a complicated issue. Israel wants the security arrangements to be as it wishes and in line with its strategy, without considering the security requirements of the other parties involved in the peace process. This clearly ignores the principal bases of peace in the region. No party should get security arrangements while other parties are deprived of them. It is the Arabs that need such arrangements more than Israel, because they have been exposed to aggression for approximately one-half of a century and their territories are still occupied. Moreover, the Israeli weapons arsenal is much stronger than that of all the Arab states. So, what kind of danger, if there is any, can threaten Israel?

Undoubtedly, a just and comprehensive peace can maintain everybody's security, at a time when weapons have become so sophisticated that the border security theory has collapsed. Syria adheres to the peace process, and it is honest in its endeavors. It also insists on equal, balanced, and mutual security arrangements. Peace will have no value if it is based on the principle of preferring the interests of one party to those of another party because such a preference will deprive peace of its most important factor for its continuation, namely, justice.

When Israel declares its full readiness to meet the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace, including commitment to total withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and western al-Biqa', as well as its acceptance of fair security arrangements, the peace process will cover more than half the road. Otherwise, all efforts will fail to make the desired peace.

### Stresses 'Clear, Public' Commitment

*JN1608153694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: When the Israeli press published a statement by an Israeli source to the effect that Israel was willing to withdraw from the Golan, the parties concerned with achieving a just peace in the region did not give much thought to the sincerity of this statement. However, most of them—regardless of the substance of that statement—asked themselves: When will another Israeli official deny this statement?

Israel did not wait for long. The Israeli denial came 24 hours later. Those who were wondering when the Israeli denial would be issued were right to ask this question because Israel, which is known for its maneuvering, deception, and intransigence, is known by the world to change what it says overnight.

The public has not yet forgotten a statement by Shim'on Peres a few weeks ago, in which he restated self-evident facts, that Israel recognizes Syrian sovereignty over the Golan. On the same day, Yitzhaq Rabin denied what his foreign minister said. The next day, the two together announced that this statement reflected the stand of a previous Israeli government and that the current Israeli Government had nothing to do with it.

These maneuvers by the Israeli rulers can be rightly described as assignment of roles. This is an old and familiar Israeli practice that existed even before the peace process. However, after this process was launched, observers began to say that this Israeli practice is similar to the launching of trial balloons.

The problem here is not in the aptness of the description, but in the results of this behavior. It is an established fact that trial balloons are used for a serious purpose, which is to acquire information. However, if these trial balloons are used only to waste time, then observers will no longer take this process seriously.

Therefore, many people have asked: When will Israel deny the statement issued by some of its officials about Israeli withdrawal from the Golan? Those people did not think at all about how serious or sincere this statement was.

The parties to the peace process are supposed to express their positions clearly. This is what Syria has been doing since the beginning of the peace process. There is no need for trial balloons if the party that resorts to these balloons is truly concerned about achieving a just peace.

The United Nations, the cosponsors of the peace process, the European family, the nonaligned states, and the entire world are now certain that Syria is very serious about achieving a just peace, based on Security Council resolutions that stipulate the inadmissibility of the acquisition of the territory of others by force. These resolutions also stipulate full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 lines.

Everybody is now aware that Syria's commitment to Arab principles is an expression of the strength of the Syrian position, as well as an expression of working toward peace.

Despite the fact that so-called trial balloons are not necessary—not to say that they obstruct the peace process by wasting its valuable time—it is necessary that every party that wants to test the Syrian position toward the deformed partial and separate solutions should understand that these solutions have not achieved peace, nor paved the way for peace. These solutions have increased tension and caused daily conflagrations in the occupied territories.

Hence, Syria's position and understanding of peace and its repeated emphasis on a just and comprehensive peace that begins with a clear, public Israeli commitment to the Security Council resolutions. These resolutions do not accommodate any interpretation other than their real interpretation, namely, full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories as a sine qua non to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace that ensures security and stability and fulfills the wishes of the international community.

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## No Alternative Seen To Withdrawal to '67 Border

*JN1408081394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Aug 94*

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN comments on the Israeli prime minister's denial of any commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for peace. The paper says: This stand by Rabin does not surprise Syria. For two years, the Israeli prime minister has been maneuvering and refusing to make a categorical pledge to withdraw from the Golan. He believes that the policy of maneuvering and procrastination will make Syria go back on its declared, principled stand. The paper adds: Certainly, Rabin is mistaken, because since the launching of the U.S. initiative, Syria has rejected the course of separate deals. Time and again, Syria emphasized its adherence to an honorable just, comprehensive, and durable peace on all fronts of the conflict—a peace that brings an end to Israel's occupation of all occupied territories and returns usurped rights to the Arabs.

TISHRIN stresses that separate deals cannot lead to peace. Rather, they are a burden to the cause of a just, comprehensive peace and an obstacle to the peace process. In this regard, the paper says that a look at what is going on in the occupied territories is enough to show clearly that by luring the Palestinian side into an incomplete settlement, Israel has not reaped peace nor made one step toward it. Rather, the conflict has been exacerbated, reinforcing the conviction among the entire Palestinian people that Israel does not want peace, but aims to maintain its control of and Judaize the territory and shackle the Palestinians with unjust measures.

TISHRIN emphasizes that full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon will never be subject to bargains. The Golan Heights have been Syrian since time immemorial. They are an inseparable part of the homeland. Likewise, southern Lebanon is an inseparable part of Lebanon. Israel has no alternative but to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 border if it is really looking forward to peace in the Middle East.

Concluding, the paper says: Syria has repeatedly called on the United States and the international community to act in accordance with their responsibilities, implement UN resolutions, and not to allow Israel to abort a unique opportunity to achieve a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the most explosive area in the world.

## Peace Process Said Not Subject to 'Bargains'

*JN1408150294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 14 Aug 94*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Activity to promote the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks has accelerated in the past few months. However, this diplomacy, often represented by the regional tours of the U.S. secretary of state, has collided with Israel's intransigent and maneuvering position.

In the wake of the U.S. secretary's most recent tour, amid many interpretations of the visit's results, and especially in light of Christopher's expectation that he might return to the region in mid- September, the Rabin government has again been tampering with words, using the policy of distributing roles. Israel has been pursuing this policy since the Madrid conference convened.

After Christopher returned to Washington, Israeli media publicized ideas about withdrawal from the Golan. These were quickly denied by Rabin. Later, there was a tug-of-war inside Israel about such a withdrawal, its duration, and its geographical limits. The Israelis reiterated their talk about withdrawal within the Golan, not withdrawal from the Golan, and about how long it would take. These things were determined only by them, as if the terms of the peace process lie only in Israeli hands.

Moreover, the Israelis, whether deliberately or not, have ignored the fact that the terms of the peace process rest on the principles on which this process was established. No party may undermine or change these terms. For peace to be achieved in this region, it should be just and comprehensive. For it to be just and comprehensive, peace should be based on the peace initiative that stipulates full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. Has Israel declared any commitment in this regard?

The Rabin government's attempt to design the kind of solution it seeks, or a solution that serves only its own interests, will be an unsuccessful attempt. This is because Syria, which accepted the peace initiative, has publicly declared its justifications and terms for accepting this initiative. The Syrian position is based on UN resolutions and international legitimacy. This means, in the first place, that the peace process is not subject to any interpretations or bargains. This is one of the priorities that should be taken into account by everyone who seeks justice in this part of the world.

## Christopher Said 'Not Successful' Due to Israel

*MM1508114694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Aug 94 p 2*

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria Reemphasizes Failure of U.S. Secretary of State Tour"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—Syria continues to emphasize that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour, which had been expected to achieve progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, was not successful because of the conflicting Israeli positions and the maneuvering methods used by Israeli officials.

Christopher's recent visit was limited to conveying Syria's questions to the Israelis and informing them of

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Syria's emphasis on proceeding with the peace process, Damascus' interest in a just and comprehensive peace, and the need to achieve a full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon within a reasonable period of time acceptable to the Syrians.

Syrian sources say Christopher's decision to return to his country from Israel without a second visit to Damascus, as had originally been expected, was sufficient evidence of Israel's failure to respond to the Syrian proposals, which fall within the framework of UN resolutions and Washington's peace initiative.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syria does not want to enter the labyrinths of the Palestinian and other negotiations. It stresses the need for a real peace and security to prevail in the region. And that the peace process should be conducted in accordance with the frameworks set for it, and that others' experiments should not be repeated on the Syria and Lebanese track.

The sources added that Israel must stop playing the Lebanon card and exploding the situation in southern Lebanon with a view to using this card to exert pressure on Syria. The time has come for it to realize that Syria can never backtrack on its rightful positions, no matter how long [the process] will take, since it is in no rush, because it is seeking a firmly established peace built on sound foundations.

The sources pointed out that Christopher's return to the region in September will not be able to achieve anything unless Israel complies with the peace requirements and abandon its methods of evasion. The progress Christopher has achieved as regards calming the situation in southern Lebanon will remain exposed to collapse unless it is coupled with practical steps vis-a-vis Israel's announcement of its withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The sources believe that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements, in which he denied Israel's commitment to a full withdrawal from the Golan, falls in the framework of the policy of maneuvering and procrastination with a view to forcing Syria to backtrack on its declared principled positions.

The sources stress that Rabin's position did not surprise Syria, since he has for two years been evading and refusing to make a conclusive pledge to withdraw from the Golan. However, Syria is not prepared to enter into the labyrinths of separate deals, because the withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon will not be subject to oneupmanship. Israel has no alternative but to withdraw its forces to the 4 June 1967 border if it really is seeking—as it claims—to establish peace in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

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## Afghanistan

### Mas'ud Accuses Pakistan of Arming Hekmatyar

*BK1708015094 Hong Kong AFP in English 0125 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[By Terence White]

[Text] KHENJAN, Afghanistan, Aug 17 (AFP)—The town was within range of the big Russian-made BM-21 rockets—at least five shops in the bazaar lay destroyed while the rest were closed and the civilians had fled.

"The people haven't totally evacuated, just scattered to the surrounding villages until the situation here stabilises," said a soldier in camouflage uniform.

Khenjan, some 165 kilometres (103 miles) north of Kabul, was still in the hands of ex-defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's men, but they had been defeated 20 kilometres (12 miles) up the road at the district centre Dowshi and the locals were taking no chances.

Unlike his subordinates in Kabul, Mas'ud, military commander for President Borhanoddin Rabbani, was not coy about losing Dowshi, which was captured by a joint attacking force of former pro-communist militias under Uzbek General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam and Ismaelia religious sect commander Sayyad Jaffar Naderi about a month ago.

"Our side was careless. The enemy's first attacks against us all failed. They were almost defeated," Mas'ud told AFP. "Then some of my commanders took time off from the battlefield and rested in Dowshi."

While some officers cooled their heels, Mas'ud said his rivals attacked from west of Dowshi and cut off his forward front lines.

"The enemy got behind us and our supply routes were blocked. This was bad for us," Mas'ud acknowledged.

Yet the former guerrilla leader who gained international fame for his brilliant resistance against the Russians during their 10-year occupation of Afghanistan, claimed not to consider the loss of Dowshi as a major defeat.

"We lost some territory but we successfully blocked the enemy offensive," explained Mas'ud.

In the big picture, Mas'ud described a plot by the northern ex-communist forces and their ally Golboddin Hekmatyar, who leads the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction, to capture Kabul. The plot called first for wide-scale provincial fighting "in order to scatter our forces," he said.

The attack on Dowshi was part of this general plan and even though it was lost, Mas'ud claimed Dowshi was costly to his rivals and they would be able to advance no further towards Kabul.

"This battle cost them very much and they know it," asserted Mas'ud as he ticked off heavy casualties, low morale and a shortage of ammunition in the enemy camp.

"The enemy thought they would face less resistance here than in Kabul. I am sure they have changed their minds," noted Mas'ud.

Elsewhere in the country, such as south of Kabul at Maydan Shahr provincial centre and to the east in Laghman province, Mas'ud's Hezb-e Eslami rivals were now contained in local fighting, allowing him to concentrate on the situation in the north.

But Mas'ud is angry at what he calls "the arming of Hezb-e Eslami" by the Pakistan military intelligence agency, known as the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

"Only one thing keeps Hekmatyar on his feet—in the past few days ISI has pumped a lot of cash and ammunition into Hezb," Mas'ud claimed.

As an example, he said 10,000 Egyptian-made long-range "Sakkar" rockets, which the Afghan mojahedin used against the Russians, had recently been transported from Pakistan to Hekmatyar.

Mas'ud vehemently denied his rivals' claims that he has received foreign military aid in the form of Indian technicians at Bagram air base.

Asked whether Khenjan would fall to his rivals Mas'ud replied that they had played their best shot and were now a spent force.

"Dostam and Naderi have just one course of action left open to them—surrender," stated Mas'ud.

### Golboddin Headquarters Said 'Fiercely' Bombed

### Golboddin Guards Said Killed

*LD1308153194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 13 Aug 94*

[Text] As a result of bombardment by the air force, three Golboddin guards were killed and one of the enemy's weapons depots was set on fire.

Quoting security forces, a Bakhtar Information Agency correspondent reports that yesterday morning the air force fiercely bombarded Golboddin's headquarters, located in the training regiment of Charasiab. Three of Golboddin's guards, with his personnel [word indistinct] were killed. Three Datsun cars from among his security vehicles caught fire and were destroyed. Another 22 of Golboddin's men were also killed. As a result of air bombardments, one Golboddin ammunition depot was set on fire and exploded. Also an ammunition depot located in Bene Hesar Park, with a BM-13 set, was destroyed by fire. Six guards of this depot were killed. Eye-witnesses say that losses are much more than reported.

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According to another report from Laghman Province, the Golboddin militia attacks on the Islamic state's positions in Laghman Province were repulsed and heavy losses were imposed on the enemy forces. Quoting a security source, the BIA correspondent reports that the attack, which was launched from two directions, was completely repulsed.

### Golboddin Reported Injured

*LD1608153094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Golboddin was injured last Friday [12 August] during a bombardment. Bakhtar Information Agency [BIA] reports that during raids by the fighter planes of the Islamic state, Golboddin was injured in [word indistinct] (?neck) and [word indistinct] and was sent to Konjak hospital in Logar Province. He was treated by an Afghan and two foreign doctors.

The doctors, who do not want to be identified, say that his medical condition is bad. If he survives, his tongue and one leg will be paralyzed, and his other leg will be amputated. After several days and intensive rumors about his death, more information has been obtained. The BIA reporter who saw the bombarment says: Charasiab's training center, where Golboddin works, was bombarded six times from a low range on Friday morning. One bomb after another landed precisely on the building of Golboddin's central office. The bombardment occurred when Golboddin was meeting his commanders about the intensification of rocket attacks on Kabul. [new graf]

Previous reports said that Golboddin's three bodyguards and (?officials) were killed, as well as many of his other men, and that his two ammunition depots were set on fire. Commander Zardad's deputy was also killed. During the last few days Radio Charasiab [Radio Message of Freedom] has been broadcasting messages from Hezb-e Eslami's [Islamic Party] commanders addressed to Golboddin Hekmatyar. The report adds that until yesterday afternoon Golboddin was in the Konjak hospital [words indistinct]. Golboddin has not spoken to anyone over the past five days, including the political personalities of the country who have come to see him. He has also refused to see foreign journalists who had appointments with him, which indicates the seriousness of his condition. [passage indistinct] Official Hezb-e Eslami sources are not ready to give information about Golboddin's condition, and they are hiding this issue from the people under heavy security measures. It has been understood since yesterday that Golboddin has either been moved to another hideout or has been sent abroad for treatment.

## Combat Activity Around Kabul, Provinces Reported

### Kabul Said Hit by 198 Rockets

*LD1208174394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Aug 94*

[Text] The residential areas of Kabul today sustained a heavy attack by rockets fired by the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militias. Quoting a security source, the correspondent of Bakhtar Information Agency reports that (?two) citizens were killed and another 103 people were injured as a result of the 198 rockets fired on residential regions. Fifteen homes were destroyed.

The militias' rocket attacks intensified when four positions of the militias were seized by the mojahedin as a result of a counter-attack along the Qala-e Ahmad Khan direction. The enemy's three tanks were destroyed and one tank was taken as booty. [words indistinct] 25 militiamen were killed and another eight were captured. [words indistinct]

(?BBC) reported serious clashes between the Islamic army and the Karmal-Golboddin militias around Qala-e Bela Hesar. A responsible source of the Ministry of Defense reported that no incident so far has taken place around Qala-e Bela Hesar. The militias have lost the ability to face the Islamic army (?in this area) [words indistinct].

### Fighting Around Dowshi

*LD1308173994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 94*

[Text] Lal, commander of the guard regiment of the Dostam militia, lost one of his legs during the recent fighting around the Doshi area. He was taken to Mazar-e Sharif in a very critical condition. In reporting this news, the MOJAHED GAZETTE, in its recent issue, says Lal was Dostam's guard regiment commander. After Lal's injury, his men lost their morale and have fled their trenches.

The military correspondent of the Bakhtar Information Agency reports that Sher Arab, one of Dostam's assistants, was killed several days ago in the fighting around Dowshi.

According to the recent reports, over 1,800 of Dostam's militiamen have been killed or injured during the recent fighting around Dowshi. Dostam's commanders are refraining from handing over the dead bodies of militiamen to their families. The bodies were being buried in a mass grave.

### Rocket Attack Reportedly Kills 3

*LD1408152994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 14 Aug 94*

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam militia fired rockets into Kabul today. The General Command of Kabul Garrison says the militia fired 37 rockets today. As a result of that savage attack, three residents of Kabul were martyred, and seven others were injured.

### Ministry Hit in 'Renewed Fighting'

*LD1608171294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Fighting between the forces supporting the president and prime minister of Afghanistan was renewed this

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morning. According to the Central News Unit from Kabul, 7 people have been killed and 31 injured during this round of clashes. A large number of missiles and rockets have hit Kabul's residential areas and the vicinity of Kabul.

Incoming reports from Kabul indicate that a rocket hit the central depot of the Afghan Health Ministry, and all drugs and hospital and medical equipment, worth $1.5 million, were destroyed.

The Afghan Health Ministry announced that if the international community and friendly countries do not send drugs to Afghanistan quickly, the people of Afghanistan, especially in Kabul, will face a crisis of shortage of medicines and medical treatment.

### Dostam Helicopters Said Downed

*LD1608222594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Two helicopters belonging to the Dostam militia were shot down yesterday around the Pol-e Khomri area.

An Armed Forces source reported to BIA that one of the Dostam militia's helicopters was shot down yesterday morning when supplying ammunition to the militiamen around Dowshi. The second helicopter exploded yesterday evening when it was hit by the anti-aircraft gun of the Islamic army's Mojahedin. The crew of both helicopters were killed.

## Bangladesh

### Newspaper Article Views Prospects for SAPTA

*BK1508144094 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 8 Aug 94 p 1*

[Unattributed article]

[Text] At present the prospects for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] depend on the success of the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement [SAPTA]. It appears this way as we analyze the statement made by the Bangladesh foreign minister, A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, who is also the chairman of the SAARC council of ministers, while addressing newsmen at the end of the SAARC foreign ministers meeting which concluded in Dhaka recently. In reality, the issue is a bit different. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman said that the greatest success of this conference was that all the member countries have agreed to implement the SAPTA and take it forward. A resolution was adopted which says that a meeting of the intergovernmental experts group formed to implement the SAPTA will be held in Karachi towards the end of this month. This meeting will take the necessary decisions on the implementation of the SAPTA. It may be mentioned that the SAARC foreign ministers are very thrilled as they have been able to fix the venue of this meeting in Karachi. The reason behind this is that Pakistan is not very keen on the SAPTA. Pakistan is not interested in entering into any sort of unequal trade talks with India. If Pakistan allows entry of Indian goods into its market on priority basis in accordance with the provisions of the SAPTA, then Pakistan may have to face lot of problems in properly maintaining its trade ties with the other countries of the world. There are sufficient reasons for Pakistan to have reservations regarding the SAPTA, as its economic cooperation with Turkey, Iran, and the Central Asian countries which have recently become independent from the Soviet Union is fast expanding. Apart from this, from the political point of view there are logical reasons for Pakistan not being able to tolerate India's trade dominance in this region. On the other hand, Bangladesh has become over enthusiastic regarding SAPTA. It is very difficult to understand whether there is any justification behind this attitude. It may be assumed that, due to the wave of a free market economy which is prevailing in the world, the Bangladeshi Foreign Ministry feels that, as the country is lagging behind in maintaining a balance in its bilateral trade with India, the situation may improve to some extent with the implementation of the SAPTA. However, how much preparation has Bangladesh done in this regard? It will be easy to determine this if we take into account the issues raised at the meeting of the Bangladesh-India joint business council held on August 3. During this meeting, on behalf of the Bangladesh Chamber it was stated that the trade deficit between Bangladesh and India is increasing at the rate of 37 percent every year against Bangladesh. Since the 1989-90 period, Bangladesh has been raising a lot of hue and cry regarding this trade deficit, but India's political leaders are not willing to give any sort of tariff facility for imports from Bangladesh. On the other hand, at present Bangladesh has become converted into a market for Indian goods—particularly for luxurious and nonessential items. Toothpaste, Cadbury chocolates, and other luxury goods from India are now freely entering Bangladesh. Due to this the manufacturers of small items in Bangladesh are facing great difficulties. Indian manufacturers enjoy the facility of fixed prices for their products due to the protection of the vast domestic market in India. Bangladeshi manufacturers do not have this opportunity as the market for their products is small and demand limited in the domestic market. Hence, the setting up of any industry in Bangladesh will become risky if the tariff barrier is not increased on Indian products. Under no circumstances is India willing to reduce the tariff barrier imposed on Bangladeshi goods. For this reason the joint business council meeting failed to open up new vistas of cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries. The private entrepreneurs of the two countries failed to evolve any means for reducing the $1.7 billion trade imbalance between the two countries. When the delegates of Bangladesh raised the issue of the rising trade imbalance at the meeting, the Indians only stated that the overall exports from Bangladesh are increasing. What they have said is only a reflection of the political will of the Indian Government. The Indian

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Government has always made such statements against any proposal relating to a reduction of the tariff. Though Bangladesh has increased its exports to other countries, it will never be able to increase its exports to India. The Indian finance minister, Manmohan Singh, during his visit to Dhaka last July openly stated that if Bangladesh will grant transit facilities to India for its northeastern states, then India will set up joint venture industries in Bangladesh. It would be possible to reduce the trade imbalance to some extent by exporting the products of these joint venture industries to the northeastern states of India. The motive behind this proposal is that by capitalizing on this unequal trade with Bangladesh, India wants to use Bangladesh's Chittagong Port communication with its northeastern region. In this regard, India has evaded the Farakka problem.

Earlier, Bangladesh gave hints to India that it is willing to give transit facilities in exchange for the waters of the Farakka, but India does not want to link the water issue with the transit issue. The fact remains that even after separating the transit issue from the water issue, will it be possible to overcome the trade deficit between India and Bangladesh?

India is not giving Bangladesh the facilities which fall within the general tariff barrier of the GATT. Even after the finalization of the GATT agreement, India has violated all the rules and suddenly increased the price of boulders which it supplied to Bangladesh from $10 to $25. Later, after bargaining, the price was fixed at $18. Hence, it is futile to expect a 'fair deal' from India. Apart from this, India will not give any pledge relating to a reduction in the tariff barrier. In fact, the Indian proposal to set up joint venture industries in Bangladesh in exchange for transit facilities is actually aimed at creating an opportunity for exporting its technology. The failure of the Bangladesh-India joint business council to evolve a policy for establishing an equitable trade relationship between the two countries is not their fault. The fault lies in the trade policy of the Indian Government.

At present, India is more interested than Bangladesh in implementing the SAPTA. Implementation of the SAPTA will give an opportunity to India to dump its goods, particularly its technology, in Bangladesh. Apart from Bangladesh, India will also get an opportunity to make an entry into the Pakistani markets. It will be easy to make Bangladesh agree to the SAPTA, but it would not be so easy to make Pakistan agree to it.

This indicates that the future of SAPTA is very dark. Though bilaterally it has been possible to make some progress regarding the implementation of the SAPTA, it will not be possible to implement this arrangement for overall regional cooperation. At present, with a view to curbing insurgency in its northeastern states, India wants to utilize its trade arrangement with other countries to reap a two-pronged benefit. Here, political good intentions are lacking, and economic cooperation is not possible without political goodwill. It is being said, as has been stated by the SAARC secretary general, Yadav Kant Silwal, that economic cooperation will remove political obstacles. This slogan is actually an Indian slogan.

Before accepting his slogan, all the countries should again ponder over the proposal which was given by the foreign minister of Sri Lanka, A.C.S. Hameed. He has called for amending the SAARC Charter with a view to holding discussions on issues of bilateral differences. We are of the opinion that this should be done. Like Silwal, the foreign minister of Bangladesh, Mustafizur Rahman, has opposed the raising of bilateral issues in the SAARC forum. It is difficult to understand what the Government of Bangladesh wants to do. Bangladesh has already become converted into an extended domestic area of India. Implementation of the SAPTA or the Indian proposal to set up joint venture industries in exchange for transit facilities would make Bangladesh a tributary state of India from the economic point of view. In this regard, the SAPTA would act as an insulator for implementing the Indian blueprint. Bangladesh should do more research on this issue. Till now, no proposal has been raised in the SAARC forum as to whether India would give transit facilities to Nepal for importing goods from Bangladesh after the implementation of SAPTA. Had the issue been raised, perhaps no agreement would have been reached. If a favorable situation is not created for the movement of commercial goods between the member countries, then SAPTA is bound to suffer a great setback.

## India

### U.S. Criticism of Nuclear Policies Rebuffed

*BK1608101594 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 12 Aug 94 p 6*

[Editorial: "Why Should the United States Alone Have Nuclear Bombs?"]

[Text] Every year the U.S. President sends a general policy statement to Congress—via the State Department—that assesses the world situation from the U.S. point of view, especially in the context of safeguarding U.S. defense interests. President Clinton recently issued such a statement. It discusses in detail the problems of growing pollution around the world; growing population, which compounds this problem; the various regional conflicts that threaten political stability and democracy in certain countries; and other issues. India is only concerned with the part of the statement that refers to U.S. nuclear policy. The statement offers two primary reasons for the United States to remain a nuclear power—first, to safeguard U.S. interests if any nuclear power should oppose them; and second, to make it clear to other countries that they are unlikely to derive any special advantage if they possess nuclear weapons precisely for the reason stated above. One of the objectives of U.S. national policy as specified in Mr. Clinton's

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statement is to cap the nuclear and missile programs of India and Pakistan as quickly as possible and eventually halt them altogether.

The United States must realize, however, that India and other countries have the right to formulate their own policies and discard them according to their utility in order to safeguard their national interests. If the United States declares it an objective of its national policy to force India to stop its nuclear and missile programs as soon as possible, then India has every right to make it a national policy that these programs not only continue—despite any U.S. pressure to stop them—but reach their logical culmination. The basic logic behind the self-proclaimed U.S. responsibility to keep the world free from nuclear weapons should be that this part of the world, badly distressed by hunger and poverty, needs to attend to development more than spending money building deadly nuclear weapons. Why should astronomical amounts be spent on these programs while the needy are deprived of their basic and due needs? We do not feel, however, that this is the logic behind America's avowed attempt to keep the world free of nuclear weapons. If this humane logic was the guiding principle behind the U.S. policy, its natural extension would encompass the United States itself. If other countries do not beed nuclear weapons and missiles, according to this logic, why should the United States need them? The U.S. rebuttal—that it must have nuclear weapons to guarantee its own defense and impress upon other countries that having nuclear weapons would serve no special purpose—is quite fallacious. If the United States needs nuclear weapons to safeguard its own interests, other countries should be entitled to them for the same reason. This is a universal requirement; every country that has the capacity wants to become a nuclear power to ensure its security and safety. If the United States is sincere in wanting to see a world free of the nuclear menace, it must forsake its right to remain a nuclear power. Until it declares a policy under which it will eventually become a nonnuclear power, all of its statements and declarations in this regard will appear hollow and full of blustering rigmarole.

## U.S. Withholding F-16's From Pakistan Viewed

*BK1608123894 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 13 Aug 94 p 6*

[Editorial: "The Case of the F-16 Bombers"]

[Text] It is a matter of a rare satisfaction for India that America is not giving Pakistan the F-16 bombers. Although the U.S. Administration has not told Pakistan officially about the decision, Pakistan learned it from media reports. Pakistan's reaction is that if the USA is not providing these bombers, it must return the money paid against the expected sale. Not only this, Pakistan has also expressed hope that it might succeed in getting from Russia the M-29 and Sukhoi SU-27 bombers, but Russia seems to have dashed Pakistan's hopes by refusing to do so. This has enhanced India's delight tremendously. This was expected from Russia because during his last visit to India, President Yeltsin categorically announced that Pakistan won't be getting these war planes and weapons for the present. What is important in the whole context is the American refusal to give these planes to Pakistan.

This American refusal in the changed international equation signifies the end of Pakistan's relevance and utility for the USA. Pakistan has always been just a pawn in America's move to stall the spread of communism and Soviet aggrandizement. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Pakistan also lost its strategic relevance for the USA.

Another interpretation of the American refusal is the USA's firm belief that Pakistan would not refrain from making the atomic bomb. Although the U.S. Administration suggested that if Pakistan could guarantee that it halt production of materials used in making atom bombs it might give Pakistan the F-16's by removing the provisions of the Pressler Amendment, the U.S. Congress refused to accept this plea. In the first place, what was the logic behind the U.S. administration's plea? What made it believe that Pakistan would stop production of the explosive material used in manufacturing atomic bombs? Pakistan is so suspicious of India's designs that unless it received such an assurance from India, there was no likelihood of it agreeing to the U.S. suggestion. Obviously the U.S. Administration erred in its assessment of the situation. Pakistan is not producing enriched uranium now, not because it wants to please America but because it does not have the means. There is not even an iota of doubt that it will start production of enriched uranium the moment it has those means. It is in this background that the American refusal to supply F-16 bombers can be used in dropping atomic bombs over enemy territory.

Whatever the reasons, the American refusal has pulverized the morale of Pakistan. This would naturally reduce the chances of war breaking out between India and Pakistan because Pakistan is not likely to engage in such a suicidal confrontation without adequate striking power.

Whether America has taken this step willingly or under some compulsion, this decision has surely scattered the war clouds gathering over the Indian sub-continent, although Pakistan is repeatedly trying to generate such situations. If at this juncture India unilaterally states that it will not use the atomic bomb first, it would help America twist Pakistan's arm more severely and Pakistan's atomic program might be stalled for a longer period. If Pakistan is thinking that it could buy bombers from Ukraine or Kazakhistan, it is blatantly on the wrong track. America won't let it happen and these countries would also realize the gravity of the worries afflicting India.

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### Ayodhya Mosque Demolition Cases Withdrawn

*BK1708035994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to withdraw all cases in connection with communal riots and agitation following the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya on 6 December 1992. This major policy decision was officially announced in Lucknow yesterday. A state government release, however, clarified that this does not include cases relating to murder or attempt to murder. All the concerned district magistrates in the state have been directed to take steps in this connection.

### Khurshid, UK Minister Discuss Economic Cooperation

*BK1608161394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] India and Britain have agreed to step up economic cooperation, particularly in trade. The British minister of state in the foreign and commonwealth office, Mr. Alistair Goodlad, had detailed discussions with the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, in New Delhi today. They noted the success of Indo-British Partnership Initiative and the boost in bilateral trade, which has gone up by 24 percent to 2 billion pounds.

### Township Plans 'Largest Cable TV Network in Asia'

*BK1508130394 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 11 Aug 94 p 22*

[Text] Close on the heels of the industry ministry decision to legitimise cable operators by granting them SSI [expansion unknown] status, the Steel Authority of India (SAIL) has recently awarded a six-year contract to Catvision Products Ltd to set up and operate a cable TV network in Rourkela township.

This is for the first time that a PSU [Public Sector Unit] has hired a private cable company to run the network for any of its township. In majority the cases, the PSUs organise it.

According to Mr Sudhir Damodaran, director (marketing), Catvision Products Ltd: "An agreement between my firm and SAIL was signed recently." Earlier this year, SAIL had floated a tender calling for dish antenna firms to set up cable network system at Rourkela, he said. The Catvision functionary disclosed that the other bidders were Shyam Cables and MCE Engineering (MCE).

The SAIL-Catvision agreement would be open for renewal at the end of the stipulated contract period of six years, Catvision officials said and added that the Rs 3-crore project would be the largest cable TV network in Asia.

The project included setting up infrastructure facilities, installation of equipments and cable wiring to around 30,000 households of the township. Catvision will import some highly technological and sophisticated equipments from Hirchmann of Germany.

Beside the beaming of all channels, the new system would also facilitate direct telecast of various events in the township. An exclusive channel of the SAIL would also be wired for local residents. SAIL is contemplating to produce regular news bulletins to be aired through the network.

## Iran

### Argentine Ambassador To Leave Tehran

*LD1608202594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1947 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] Mr. Hadi Suleymanpur, Iranian ambassador to Argentina, left Buenos Aires for Tehran at 1300 Argentina time on Tuesday, 16 August.

According to IRNA, Argentina's ambassador to Tehran is to leave Tehran for his country on Wednesday morning [17 August]. [passage omitted]

### IRGC Announces 'Massive' Exercise on 18 Aug

*LD1608164594 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] To mark the anniversary of the cease-fire on the borders of Iran and Iraq, a massive exercise of the Ashura Battalions of the Basij [Mobilization Corps] of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] will be held throughout the country. The IRGC announced that this exercise will be held on Thursday, 18 August, with the participation of over 740 Basij battalions in order to strengthen and increase their defensive capabilities.

### Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Sunni Scholars

*LD1608163894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] In a meeting today with a number of Sunni scholars from all over the country, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: During this era of a revival of religious thoughts, the entire efforts of global arrogance and world blasphemy are directed toward causing a confrontation among all of God's worshippers and to creating division between the Shiite and Sunni. This is one of their historic and deep-rooted conspiracies.

The president stated: After the changes in the Eastern bloc, Islamic Iran—as a base and a concentration point of Islamic sovereignty and Koranic thought—has been a target of hatred and world blasphemy. He added: The enemy is afraid of Shiite and Sunni scholars. We should be vigilant, strengthen the factors of unity, and identify

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and eliminate the elements of discord, by making the Koran an axis of unity, by paying attention to national and Islamic interests, and through our realistic and rational approach to issues.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Islamic world will not reap any benefits from disunity; the issues and problems it is facing now—such as the existing disputes among the various countries or civil wars—arise from the fact that Islam and religious beliefs are not observed as a pivot. The president added: In the revolution and regime of the Islamic Republic, the interests of Islam have priority over everything else. By giving priority to the two principles of being Muslims and Iranian, we share a common principle with all religious sects in the country and all over the world and we work on that basis.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani believes that resorting to force and behaving in an insulting, illogical, and unreasonable manner toward followers of various sects and religions, even non-Muslims, is unacceptable and extremely negative, and said: Islam is a religion of reason, logic, and contentment. One should not attribute the insulting, bullying, and foolish behavior of ignorant and corrupt individuals to the religion, to scholars, and the Islamic regime; and one should not allow such weapons that weaken Islam and the country to be deployed. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the murder of Christian leaders in Iran; the massacre of pilgrims at the pure shrine of His Holiness Imam Reza, peace be upon him; and the plan to place a bomb in the Maki [Sunni] Mosque of Zahedan as evidence for and part of an extensive plot. He said: Fortunately, this satanic plot of the enemies, which created a wave of propaganda in the world against the Islamic system and the Muslim people of Iran, to a certain extent, was, with God's blessings, exposed and neutralized.

Referring to the government's important development projects to eliminate deprivation from the deprived and from the border regions of the country, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out: The instructions of the eminent leader Khamene'i and the government policy all over the country is to distribute justly all the means in all the regions, especially the deprived regions, regardless of the inhabitants' religious sect and ethnic origin. We strive to compensate for the shortcomings.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that the Islamic 'ulema, including Shiite and Sunni 'ulema, would shoulder their heavy burden of duty in directing the people to take steps toward practical realization of Islamic unity. [passage omitted]

## 'Counterrevolutionary Element' Said on Decline

*LD1608191294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] At today's meeting of the council for security in the western areas of the country, chaired by Interior Minister Mr. Besharati, reference was made to the security situation in west Iran and it was announced that thanks to the extensive measures taken by the Law Enforcement Force aimed at closing and controlling the borders, the presence of counterrevolutionary elements has markedly declined in the area, and they are now deprived of the ability to carry out any act.

It was also stated that due to the presence of the forces of Islam and with coordination between security and intelligence organs and help from the people of the area, a number of counterrevolutionary elements have sought sanctuary in the Islamic Republic of Iran, thereby making the area unsafe for the mercenary counterrevolutionary elements [sentence as heard].

## Qazvin Incident, Need for Vigilance Discussed

*NC1708103294 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Aug 94 pp 1, 16*

[Editorial by Bizhan Moqaddam: "Lessons From an Incident"]

[Excerpts] You cannot ignore the events in Qazvin in the past few days. You should learn a lesson from them. If a realistic and intensive postmortem of events was carried out it would provide a feasible course of action for officials and the people.

The concept of changing a city's status to fit a new arrangement in the country's divisions is not new. It is governed by principles such as population, area, number of cities covered, active and potential resources, geographical location, and so on. That the people in a city seriously want the city's independence or its declaration as a province and so on can be construed initially as a "demand" that could be followed up through legal channels.

As for some cities being declared provinces, the issue should be placed on the agenda of the Islamic Majles and the executive officials, governors, governors general, Majles deputies, and the propaganda apparati should take vigilant steps in this regard.

A kind of extremism was observed in the recent incident, which provoked nationalist sentiment (even to a limited extent) and heightened differences to the level of hostility between the people of the two cities of Qazvin and Zanjan through local officials and newspapers.

If the issue of making Qazvin a province should have been ratified by the Islamic Majles, how come promises were made and propaganda implemented by local officials and some high-level officials in the hierarchy such that signs advertising "Qazvin Province" appeared much earlier? We can perceive the harm in this campaign when the Majles (people's deputies) gave no affirmative vote to this government proposal, on the basis of a debate involving experts. This is why we witnessed another reaction, which we will refer to later. [passage omitted]

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The vigilant and revolutionary people of Qazvin staged a massive march on Friday and displayed their "revolutionary acumen and fervor." They shouted slogans of loyalty to the system and adherence to the law and called for the incident to be followed up in a correct and legal manner.

The Qazvin incident proved that some are opportunists or inadvertently embark on actions in the name of support for people's rights out of a misplaced zeal rather than perception. This merely provides grist for the enemy mill. The people should avoid such situations, using their revolutionary alertness, so that those who wish ill do not capitalize on such opportunities.

### Commentary on International Hizballah Cells

*NC1608151094 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Aug 94 p 1*

[Commentary by Mohammad Sarafraz: "The Hizballah Cells"]

[Text] The aim of the United States in sponsoring the so-called Middle East peace talks is for the regional regimes to accord official recognition to the aggression of the Israeli regime.

The leaders of Egypt and Jordan have succumbed to the acceptance of the Zionist usurpation and the only neighbor of Palestine, that is, Syria, continues to resist. The United States dragged the regional countries into individual negotiations and dealings with the Israeli regime so that it can capitalize on their possible differences and the clashes that may ensue, to the benefit of the Zionists, who have attained most of their objectives in the past decade by using this ploy. Currently, differences have emerged between King Husayn and 'Arafat on the issue of the chimerical control of Jerusalem, and the Zionists are fanning these differences by inviting King Husayn to Jerusalem. In such circumstances, the eyes of the United States and Israel are turned toward the country and groups that are not willing to put the seal of endorsement on the aggression against, and the usurpation of, an Islamic country.

The main topic of the 5-hour-long talks between Hafiz al-Asad and the U.S. secretary of state was the situation regarding the Lebanese Hizballah. The U.S. demand is very clear: The Zionists have occupied a part of southern Lebanon but they should not be threatened by Hizballah! This is while Hizballah, which is a legitimate group with representation in the parliament of Lebanon, and can inflict a blow on the source of usurpation in occupied Palestine.

On principle, Hizballah was formed after the major attack by Israel on Lebanon and with its selfless resistance, it was able to repulse the enemy who had reached Beirut, to the area near the borders. The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran resulted in resuscitating the spirit of combat against domination among the Muslim countries so that every domineering action by the enemy resulted in further strengthening the front of resistance.

Thus we see that the Hizballah cells have mushroomed even in Latin American countries and today, the main problem of international Zionism is to rein in Islamic leanings in the countries of North, Central, and South America. What is interesting and noteworthy in this regard is that the visage of international blasphemy and hypocrisy stands exposed and disarmed before Islamic logic.

Today the United States and Israel consider the Islamic Republic of Iran their number one enemy, when in the past, they sought to project themselves as being close to Iran.

Today, the holy shrine of the eighth imam (peace be upon him)—the manifestation of Islam in Iran—is the venue of a bomb explosion and the Monafeqin [meaning hypocrites—pejorative term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] are given overt support by the important European governments, the United States, as well as Israel, after perpetrating such a crime.

Ripping off the mask of hypocrisy from the visage of international blasphemy should be considered a favorable sign that heralds the glad tidings of the establishment of a united international front of Muslims against it.

### Velayati on Trade With Central Asia

*LD1608091994 Ashgabat TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 8 Aug 94 p3*

[Article by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati: "The Shape of Trade and Economic Relations Between Iran and Central Asia"]

[Text] The changes that have taken place in the world over the last few years created new conditions in which the acute need for cooperation and mutual understanding between countries is felt more apparently than ever before. The rise of the young democracies in Eastern Europe and the founding of independent states in Central Asia and Transcaucasia are among the visible results of those international changes. These changes are undoubtedly positive ones.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is in a particularly favorable situation as regards the new independent states of Central Asia and Transcaucasia. Iran has acquired new neighbors to the north with which it shares a mutual desire to develop cooperation on a bilateral as well as a multilateral regional basis.

The sense of historical community between the newly independent countries and Iran create wonderful opportunities for the development of cooperation and coordination in the region.

Our greatest desire is to secure peace and tranquillity in these countries and in the whole region as well. The

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independence of these countries and the achievement of prosperity by them, as well as the development of regional cooperation, need stability.

Therefore, since these independent republics were established Iran has conducted a stable, constant, and consistent policy aimed at developing friendly relations with these countries. Its policy is based on the principles of noninterference in states' domestic affairs and respect for their sovereignty and independence. Iran has called on these countries to resolve the conflicts and disputes that arise between them by peaceful means at the negotiating table.

The Islamic Republic of Iran spared no energy or effort in the area of economics and the development of trade and industrial relations with these republics. It devoted considerable resources to creating conditions and favorable opportunities for setting up friendship and cooperation with the countries. The Islamic Republic regards the development of relations with these states as a priority of its economic policies.

To this end 11 border crossings have been opened and roads to increase passenger and freight transportation in various directions are either being constructed or repaired. Projects for the construction of several bridges across the Araxes and Atrek border rivers have been prepared. Some of these have already been carried out while others are at the implementation stage. Repair and construction of the Bajgiran, Quchan, Lotfabad, and Darrehgaz highways that lead to central Turkmenistan, will help increase the flow of passengers and goods to and from Turkmenistan itself and other Central Asian countries. All in all, 70-90 percent of the physical volume of the repair and reconstruction works has been completed. Construction of a 150 km highway from Khoda Aferin to Nakhichevan will reduce the journey across Iranian territory from the main part of the Azerbaijani Republic to Nakhichevan by 30 km.

Laying the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen (Turkmenistan) railroad track will close a gap to create an international regional railroad network. Construction of the line requires the digging of two tunnels, which is being done at the moment.

This railroad will create excellent opportunities for transporting the passengers and freight of such countries as Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. When the line is joined up to the Iranian rail network these countries will gain an outlet to Europe, the Gulf countries, and the open seas. Completion of the project is expected by the end of 1994. In order to open up these transportation opportunities even further, the Islamic Republic of Iran has started construction of several railroads that go from north to south. They include such routes as Mashhad-Kerman-Zahedan (150 km), Bafq to Bandar-e Abbas (700 km), and Astara-Qazvin (300 km). Developments in this field are being worked on in conjunction with ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific] and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. As for air communications, there are signs of considerable progress here, too. Such air routes as Tehran-Baku, Tehran-Almty, Tehran-Ashgabat, and Baku-Kish are already in operation. Flights on the Tehran-Tashkent, Tehran-Dushanbe, and Mashhad-Ashgabat routes will start soon.

In the sphere of maritime transport it may be noted that construction of ports on the Caspian Sea is expanding dynamically and new shipping routes are being created. At present passengers and goods are transported between Baku and Bandar-e Anzali, and freighters run between the town of Turkmenbashy and the Iranian ports of Bandar-e Anzali and Nowshahr. In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran has started construction of two new seaports on the Caspian in the neighborhood of Amirabad and Feridun Kenar, and the possibility of building another seaport in the Bandar-e Torkaman area is being studied.

Along with the improvement of transport connections, much attention is being paid to developing telecommunications between Iran and the newly independent states in the region.

Another area of cooperation is arranging the transportation of oil and gas through Iranian territory from deposits located in these countries.

On the basis of an agreement achieved with Turkmenistan, a project is currently being worked out on the construction of a pipeline from Turkmenistan across Iran to Turkey, from where the gas will be sent to Europe. A feasibility study for the project has already been prepared: the routes, costs, and ways of implementing the project have been defined. It will be possible to pump between 15 billion and 30 billion cubic meters of gas through this pipeline. At present talks are under way with the Azerbaijani Republic on oil and gas transportation.

In addition to these examples of bilateral cooperation, a promising system of regional cooperation involving Iran and these states is taking shape. This cooperation must strengthen stability and security in the region and create a more effective mechanism and structure for socioeconomic relations development. Three projects lie at the heart of developing multilateral cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Asian countries:

1. The establishment of structures for cooperation between the Caspian states;

2. The convening of a conference on security and collective cooperation in Asia;

3. Expansion of the Economic Cooperation Organization's activity.

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Within the framework of the Organization for Cooperation between the Caspian States, the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to promote the development of shipping, cooperation in the exploitation of sturgeon species, joint utilization of maritime resources, and environmental protection.

In addition, projects in this area are currently being developed in conjunction with the United Nations' Development Organization, the FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization], and the UN economic bodies.

The idea of holding a conference on security and collective cooperation in Asia has already been supported by Kazakhstan. Convening the conference will lay the foundations for mutual understanding and confidence-building between the countries on the Asian continent, which will serve not only to establish stability and peace in the region, but will make it possible to implement the socioeconomic and political development programmes as well.

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is an international institution for cooperation between states. Initially its only members were Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan, but in recent years the number has increased with the accession of the Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan, among others. At present the ECO's main task is to create the infrastructure and financial and economic foundations for cooperation between its members. The organization has therefore concentrated its efforts on constructing communications, establishing the Joint Investment Bank, and facilitating of cooperation between the member-states.

Many of the programs that we are developing with the Central Asian countries, in particular the establishment of the Joint Investment Bank, extending communications, environmental protection and the facilitation of trade and mutual investments are in full accordance with what the world community is striving for, and with what must form the basis for regional cooperation.

Our cooperation with the newly independent countries on a bilateral and multilateral basis is completely appropriate to the thrust of the international aid programmes for the countries. However, there are such difficulties as the absence of necessary structures, high inflation, unstable currency rates, and a lack of appropriate economic laws and legislative acts on investments, which complicate the establishment of the trade and economic relations with these countries. Of course, the republics are making the required efforts in this area, but, as a whole, favorable conditions for investments have not yet been created. In spite of this, the Islamic Republic of Iran is actively developing relations with these countries.

Taking into account the location of the Islamic Republic of Iran, there are good opportunities for joint investment in these republics in conjunction with third countries. We hope that the idea of trilateral investments will acquire greater support from interested states. The conditions exist in Iran for this kind of investment activity, and various preferential terms and incentives are planned.

A great deal is being expected of aid to the Central Asian and Caucasian countries. Iran has been fulfilling its duties towards these countries insofar as it is able. But the need is for such substantial investments and such large-scale aid that we should think above all about making more effective use of the resources and potential that those countries possess themselves.

As it develops relations with the newly independent countries, the Islamic Republic is merely attempting to meet the demands of the moment, and it views any pressure exerted on these countries from abroad as an attempt to encroach on their state sovereignty and independence and their right to self-determination according to democratic and generally-accepted principles.

Many of the projects, which the Islamic Republic of Iran is planning unilaterally or in cooperation with third countries (construction of pipelines, roads, railway lines and bridges; reconstruction of bridges, and so on), are aimed at rendering assistance to the Central Asian countries and developing the economy of the whole region. The region has considerable resources at its disposal, and it is capable of turning into an important trade and economic centre within the next two to three years.

## Central Bank Governor Views Economic Performance

*LD1308182894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At the end of the annual general assembly of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the bank's governor [Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli] took part in an interview with our reporter in which he said the following about the country's economic situation last year:

[Begin 'Adeli recording] The country's economic performance in 1372 [beginning 21 March 1993] reveals that the policy of economic reforms continued and that, despite the unfavorable international economic and political conditions—and, especially, the drop in the price of oil last year, the country's economy showed a positive growth of 5 percent. This represents a high level of growth in comparison with the level in developing countries throughout the world which was about 2.3 percent.

I should add that investment showed a 2.7 percent growth last year and that the portion of capital formation [sahm-e tashkil-e sarmayeh] in the gross domestic production, which stood at about 13 percent five years ago, increased to 22 percent last year.

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The other new record we set last year related to non-oil exports: Over 5 million tonnes of goods were exported, with a value of a little less than $4 billion.

This growth is a result of the performance in various economic sectors: such as a 5.5 percent growth in agriculture; 6 percent in the mining sector; and 3.6 percent in the oil sector. Of course, in the industrial sector—due to the structural dependence on foreign exchange—our growth was limited to 1 percent. However, as a result of the move towards a single exchange rate last year, domestic production showed an extensive growth in our country and we were able to meet more of our needs domestically.

In the service sector, too, we saw a growth of about 7.5 percent. In the government's financial sector—despite the non-realization of the expected revenue because of the fall in the price of oil—the government limited its expenditure and did not allow the balance to be destroyed in the budget and the budget deficit remained zero.

In the money and credit sector, the banks, fortunately, succeeded in attracting more than 10,000 billion rials in savings from the people and they were able to grant about 8.4 trillion rials of that sum back to the people in the form of various facilities and loans. In this way, the [?balance] of facilities granted by banks reached the level of about 35 trillion rials. In addition, I have to add that the proportion between loans and savings, which stood at about 60 percent five years ago, has now reached about 75 percent; something which reveals that the banks' capacity to grant loans has shown a considerable growth.

In the trade sector, the country's imports showed a 17 percent decrease last year and were limited to $19 billion. This limitation on imports was to the advantage of the country's balance of payments, since the deficit in our balance of payments fell from about $3.5 billion to about $1 billion. This improved the country's ability to make payments.

In the stocks and bonds sector, we saw a new record last year: 97.3 million shares were presented and were purchased by the people. From this total, about 85 percent was presented by public companies and 15 percent was presented by the private sector. This allowed the people to have a greater share of ownership. [end recording]

### 1.146 Billion Rials Recovered From State Firms

*LD1608141094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Excerpt] The head of the Majles Accounts Commission has announced that following the commission's continuous investigations into violations by the state apparatus, 1.146 billion rials have been returned to the country's treasury.

Today, in an interview with reporters, Mr. Kamyar added: The number of complaints submitted to the accounts commission with regard to the violations has been reduced in comparison to last year. He said: In the second development plan the government will approve independently the budgets of approximately 2,400 governmental state businesses. [passage omitted]

## Pakistan

### Nawaz Sharif Demands New Elections, Threatens Ouster

*BK1608155994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the opposition leader in the National Assembly, said fresh elections should be held in the country. Addressing a news conference at the Parliament House in Islamabad this evening, he said the opposition party will launch a nationwide movement to oust the present government if this demand is not met by 11 September.

### Bhutto, Leghari Greet Indian Leaders on National Day

*BK1508081694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Aug 94*

[Text] The prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, has expressed Pakistan's firm resolve to establish tension-free and good neighborly relations with India based on sovereign equality and mutual benefit. This has been stated by her in a message to the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, on the independence day of India being celebrated today. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the people of the two countries should work for peace and stability in our region.

The president, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has also greeted his Indian counterpart, Mr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, on the occasion.

### Article Surveys State of Ties With Washington

*BK1608113894 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Aug 94 p 7*

[Article by Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema: "Anti-Americanism: is it on the rise?]

[Text] It is not an easy question to acculately answer. Anti-Americanism is on the rise. Several reasons impede the desired authentic assessment. To begin with, the credibility of opinion polls is not very high and people are rarely influenced by the polls outcome. Most polls are high profile issue orientated, and not many will be interested in assessing whether anti-Americanism is on the rise. Besides, opinion formulation seems to be restricted mostly to urban centres, and effortrs are rarely made to find out how people in remote or rural areas view developments presumed to be influencing peoples'

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attitudes towards the Americans. As far as the print media is concerned, while it enjoys considerable freedom, most of the newspapers have their own axe to grind and frequently demonstrate their expression of sympathies in one form or the other to suit their chosen pursuits. On the other hand, the electronic media is totally controlled by the government.

Despite the existing difficulties in ascertaining accurately the emergence of new or the acceleration of the incumbent trends, one can still get some ideas about how accumulated feelings are shaping the attitudes by meeting representatives of various sections of society on one hand and assessing the circumstantial evidence on the other. Currently five factors seem to be consistently influencing people's views. perhaps no other development is eroding Pak-U.S. goodwill so rapidly as is being done by the advent of the Pressler Amendment and its subsequent strict and continuous application. Admittedly, the Pressler Amendment is designed to prevent Pakistan's drift towards nuclearisation, but its country-specific nature has, somewhat inadvertently, pushed the Pakistanis towards the brink of unwanted weaponisation. Few years back, very few groups would openly support or even voice their open support for weaponisation in public forums.

Today, very few groups tend to oppose the drift towards weaponisation. Many thinking persons who, at one stage, demonstrated their strong opposition to the nuclear weapon acquisition, are now treating weaponisation somewhat sympathetically. The application of the Pressler Amendment adversely affected Pakistan's conventional weapons capability. Cognizant of the continuing Indian threat, coupled with the ongoing Kashmir crisis, nobody can afford to overlook the deteriorating conventional arms situation. Increasing reliance on nuclear capablity is likely to gain even more currency. In addition, many people have begun to question the American nuclear policy in South Asia, especially in the light of Pakistan's posistive approach towards nuclear non-proliferation. Compared to India which initiated the proliferation processin South Asia, Pakistan not only categorically and repeatedly expressed willingness to sign the NPT provided India also agrees to become a party to the treaty, but also put forward many constructive proposals to prevent proliferation.

The second reason contributing towards anti-Americanism is directly linked with the Pressler Amendment. Pakistan had placed an order for a few F-16's. The enforcement of the Pressler Amendment has prevented the delivery of even those F-16's for which the payment has been made. The Americans are neither giving the money back to Pakistan nor handing over the planes that have already been paid for. Such an attitude is generating severe criticism in many quarters. Besides, Pressler Amendment's application, especially with regard to conventional weapons is generating the impression of utter discrimination against Pakistan. Ordinary people in street often ask the question why is Pakistan punished for a crime that has been committed by India?

Recently the American ambassador to India in an interview to The Times of India, categorically ruled out the possibility of delivering F-16's to Pakistan even if Islamabad capped its nuclear programme. The ambassador also mentioned that U.S. needs India to play a leadership role. It seems that the Clinton administration has been totally overwhelmed by the Indian mystique and consequently has opted for a country which has frequently used force in the region in order to attain its objective, regularly demonstrates utter disregard for UN resolutions, is rarely guided by logic and rationality, openly advocates proliferation by imposing its own policy over the entire NPT system, projects secularism but practices communalism, vociferously criticises other nations' acquisition of weapons but finds its own feverish armament justifiable, preaches peaceful course of action for others but always uses force for its own pursuits.

The third reason exacerbating the situation is the American vacillating attitude over Kashmir. While periodic statements are issued by the United States reflecting that the Americans regard Kashmir as a dispute, not much effort has been made by them to resolve the issues. Instead the U.S. merely issues statements to the governments of India and Pakistan to resolve the issue bilaterally and peacefully. The longish history of the ongoing Kashmir dispute clearly points towards its insolubility-without the active participation of UN or a superpower. Neither the UN nor the U.S. seem moved enough to undertake initiatives similar to ones that have been taken with regard to the Middle East. It appears somewhat strange to many people, that on one hand the Americans demonstrate so much concern for nuclearisation of the region and on the other are totally unwilling to initiate active involvement in resolving the issue that is known to be the real source of tension and a major hurdle on the road to nuclear nonproliferation in the region.

Expressions like that "Washingon treats Kashmir as a disputed territory" and "U.S. would be happy to mediate if both India and Pakistan ask for help" merely reflects the unwillingness of the superpower to make concerted efforts toward its resolution. Inability to undertake an active initiative either unilaterally or in collaboration with other important members of international community, is indeed causing considerable amount of frustration among the Pakistanis, which in turn, facilitates the creeping anti-Americanism in Pakistan. It seems the either the Americans are heavily duped by Indian propaganda and are unable to comprehend the regional realities, or they are deliberately looking the other way as they are totally enticed by the economic bonanza offered by the recently opened and liberalised Indian market.

The fourth reason is somewhat directly linked with the ongoing Kashmir crisis. In fact it revolves around the blatant human rights violations in Kashmir. While projecting itself as the champion of human rights, America's role in preventing human rights violations inside the

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Kashmir vale has been extremely disappointing. In addition, its lack of interest in preventing Serbian brutalities in Bosnia has further stinted its image in Pakistan.

The fifth factor that probably has a direct bearing upon Pak-U.S. relations relates to Pak-Indian relations. From the outset, Pak-Indian relations have never enjoyed the desired level of normalcy. While many factors account for this abnormal state of relationship between India and Pakistan, the most damaging aspect was that both became the yardstick for other sets of relationships. If the Pak-U.S. relationship strengthened, it adversely affected Indo-U.S. relationship, though Washington tried to maintain an even-handed approach. Currently the growing Indo-U.S. linkages are viewed with apprehensions by many Pakistanis. They regard the vacillation of American attitude over Kashmir as the direct product of improved Indo-U.S. ties, ever since America declared India as an attractive country for trading and investment the suspicions have been consistently multiplying.

A combination of above mentioned five reasons cause increasing anxiety about America's likely policies vis-a-vis Pakistna. While shifting perceptions of global and regional interests often affect the durability of existing sets of relationships and frequently cause changes and rearrangements, the American inability to either comprehend the intensity of Pakistanis' feelings over Kashmir or to demonstrate deliberate disregard for the principles they themselves applied in other areas, often cause confusion among the minds of people in the region. In the case of fraq the Americans were not only quick to enlist the support of the UN but also executed the decision with indecent haste. In the case of Kashmir, however, the U.S. seemed to demonstrate total disregard for the UN resolutions, which were accepted by both India and Pakistan. Instead of activating the UN to undertake a major intiative, or even throwing their weight behind Secretary General Boutros Ghali's recent mediation offer in order to resolve Kashmir, of even in vesting one-third of the total effort that was exerted with regard to the Palestine question, the American conscience seems to be easily satisfied by a mere acknowledgement of Kashmir as a disputed territory.

Many in Pakistan are now convinced that the United States is not sincere to its over-projected goal of nuclear nonproliferation because otherwise South Asia should have attracted its interest as both the states involved in the Kashmir dispute are nuclear-capable. The danger of nuclear exchanges are much higher in South Asia than in Middle East. Yet the Americans were willing to comprehensively invest their efforts in Middle East rather than in South Asia.

A gradual recognition of their inconsistent attitude coupled with the earlier mentioned factors are paving the way for creeping anti-Americanism here. Not only is the wide gap between the declaratory level slowly dawning upon the people of Pakistan, the mist is also lifting and it is becoming clearer that the current U.S. administration is determined to win over India irrespective of the cost involved, including quick sacrifices of the principles they proudly projected elsewhere in the past.

## President Discusses Defense Capability, F-16's

*BK1608150894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] The president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has said the government is fully aware of the defense needs of the country and will equip its Armed Forces with sophisticated weapons for the defense of the motherland. He was talking to newsmen at Sargodha Air Base today after witnessing the Pakistan Air Force [PAF] exercise Saffron Bandit-94. The president reiterated full support to the Kashmiri people despite Indian threats and expressed the confidence that Pakistan can meet any threat. He said India is violating international law and its own commitment and the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir. The president said Kashmir is an unfinished item of the partition agenda.

[Begin Leghari recording] We will continue to support the Kashmiri people. Whether we have...[changes thought] whether we get Indian threats or whether we do not get Indian threats, we have a principled stand on that which has been there a long time. As far as our defense capability is concerned, F-16 was not the only factor in our defense. We have many other systems. Of course the Americans have hurt us badly by denying us what we have paid for [and] by not living up to their contractual obligation. But, nevertheless, Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan defense forces generally are doing whatever is possible. The Government of Pakistan is doing whatever is possible to keep Pakistan's defense on high alert and we have viable defense capability to meet any threat whether from India or elsewhere. [end recording]

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari arrived at Sargodha Base this morning to review the PAF exercises. Immediately after arrival, the president attended a briefing at the Combat Commanders School. He was briefed about the exercises, which will continue for six months. The president witnessed the exercises which were participated by various aircraft of the PAF. The president also saw the ammunition being used by PAF for combat purposes. The president appreciated the combat capabilities of PAF pilots. The president also visited the fighters gallery where models of various aircraft are on display.

## Air Force Exercise 'Saffron Bandit' Begins

*BK1608133694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] The PAF [Pakistan Air Force] exercise, Saffron Bandit, began today. The president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, witnessed PAF's various aircraft participating in the attack mission. He was also briefed about the objectives of the exercise. The (?commander-level) exercise is aimed at providing (?broad- oriented) training to combat pilots in a real warlike scenario and helping in

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standardized tactics. The exercise, which will continue for six months, is also aimed at training radar controllers in a hostile electronic warfare environment. On arrival, the president was received by the chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, and the base commander, Air Commodore Mushraf Ali Mir. The president also visited the fighter's gallery displaying models of fighter bombers from World War I to date which had been manufactured by different countries.

### Afghanistan's Ariana Airlines Banned From Airspace

*BK1708095494 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 17 Aug 94 pp 1,12*

[Article by Behroz Khan in Peshawar and Tariq Butt in Islamabad]

[Text] Pakistan has banned Ariana Airlines of Afghanistan from using its airspace as long as the agreement on the subject is not renewed between the two countries.

On 12 August, Pakistani authorities denied permission to a Russian-made Ariana Airlines aircraft to proceed to New Delhi from Lahore International Airport, some Afghan sources claimed.

The flight with 24-member crew on board, sources said, was forced to land at Peshawar Airport as soon as it took off from Lahore. All of the crew members were Afghans.

Official sources in Peshawar told THE NEWS that Pakistan's step was in line with the internationally recognized rules and regulations of not allowing the use of airspace without a legal justification.

A government source in Islamabad also confirmed that an Afghan aircraft was forced to land at Peshawar Airport as it had violated the international civil aviation rules.

Under the rules, authorities have to inform the country whose airspace is to be used about the loaded cargo, number of passengers on board and the whole flight plan. The Afghan aircraft ignored all these rules, the source said.

The source however gave a different version of the incident. He told THE NEWS that it was not a scheduled flight. The plane took off from Jalalabad for New Delhi. Afghan authorities did not seek Pakistan's permission to use its airspace. "The aircraft entered Pakistan after sunset in mysterious circumstances the source said.

He said the plane was intercepted over Lahore by a PAF [Pakistan Air Force] aircraft and the pilot was asked to go back to Afghanistan. But he refused saying there was no night landing facility in his country. He argued that he should be allowed to proceed to his destination, of which he was denied. Finally, he was forced to land at Peshawar.

The source said the Ariana Airlines manager in Peshawar later informed the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority through a letter that the plane was transporting an engine to New Delhi where one of their aircraft had broken down and needed a new engine. The Afghan diplomats in Peshawar, however, said the plane landed at Peshawar due to a technical fault and had nothing to do with the expiry of the airspace agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan. "No extraordinary activity was involved in the landing of the flight," clarified Suleman Shah, Afghan diplomat in Peshawar.

The Ariana Airlines flight had to wait at Peshawar Airport for four days before it was allowed to return to Kabul on 15 August.

Civil Aviation Authority sources said nothing objectionable could be recovered from the plane when searched. They also denied arrest of the crew members by the Federal Investigation Agency.

Officials of the Immigration Department at Peshawar Airport confirmed that the passports of all the crew members had been with them until 15 August.

It was for the first time that the Borhannoddin Rabbani-led Kabul Government faced such a situation that its time-tested friend Pakistan put conditions on it. Afghans believe Pakistan is not happy over the increasing Rao-Rabbani contacts and that was why Islamabad restricted the transit flights of Ariana Airlines, especially to India. Reports have confirmed that another Ariana Airlines flight which left Jalalabad International Airport the same day had to return to Afghanistan when ordered to land at Peshawar. The Nangarhar shura has expressed its resentment over the development. A spokesman for the shura said Governor Haji Qadeer will likely lodge a formal protest with the Pakistan government on the issue as the Ariana Airlines has nothing to do with the fast improving relations between India and Afghanistan since the country lacks a centralised rule.

### Plan To Upgrade Highway Reached With 4 Nations

*BK1608155394 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan have agreed in principle to upgrade the standard of the Karakoram Highway into a well- maintained international highway and complete parts of the road on route Bishkek and Almaty, the capitals of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The agreement was reached at the ministerial-level meeting of these countries in Gilgit today. Draft proposals were exchanged between the delegates of the four countries to finalize details of the international agreement for expansion of trade and transport. The participants, however, agreed that a convoy of 15 vehicles of each country carrying goods will pass through the route on trial basis. The meeting was attended by the communication minister of China, Mr. (Li Twichang);

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communication minister of Kazakhstan, Mr. (S.A. Alisov); and Kyrgyzstan communications minister, Mr. (Mematjan Kabirovich), and Pakistan's minister for Kashmir affairs and Northern areas, Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan. Welcoming the guests, Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan said signing of the proposed agreement will usher in a new era of expansion of trade and economic cooperation for the mutual benefit of the four countries as well as the entire community.

## Sri Lanka

### Elections for 10th Parliament Conclude

#### Polling Ends; No Major Incidents

*BK1608112694 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Sri Lankans voted today to elect their 10th parliament. Polling for the general elections commenced at 0700 AM or 0230 hours GMT and ended a short while ago. Over 10 million registered voters exercised their franchise to elect 196 members to the 225-seat parliament. The remaining 29 members will be selected from the various political parties and independent groups on a proportionate representation basis. According to the authorities, the election was held without any major incident. The law enforcement officers maintained peace and order and helped in the conduct of a fair and free elections. A spokesman for the elections department told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that the first results would be announced by midnight tonight. The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation will extend its services in all three languages indefinitely to announce the results of the elections as they are received.

#### Over 75% Voter Turnout

*BK1608160094 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Tamil 1230 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] Election Commissioner Chandrananada de Silva has announced that more than 75 percent of voters exercised their franchise in today's general elections. In a report sent to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation a shortwhile ago, he said the percentage of voters in rural areas is even higher. He said there were no significant untoward incidents since the voting began.

#### Opposition Takes 'Comfortable' Lead

*BK1708091394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 94*

[Text] In the Sri Lankan parliamentary elections, the People's Alliance has established a comfortable lead over the ruling United National Party [UNP]. With 25 results yet to be announced, the People's Alliance has bagged 90 seats and the UNP 77. The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress has so far secured two seats. Sri Lanka Progressive Front and independent groups have taken one each. Of the 25 results awaited, 10 are from Jaffna.

Our Colombo correspondent, Kannan, reports that with 29 seats to be allocated under the proportional representation scheme, the People's Alliance will be able to stake its claim to form the government. The president, Mr. Wijetunga, belongs to the United National Party. Mr. D.B. Wijetunga has assured the people of Sri Lanka that he will act in terms of the Constitution in appointing the next prime minister. He has appealed to the people to remain calm.

### Emergency Declared To Prevent Post-Election Violence

*BK1608135694 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Tamil 1230 GMT 16 Aug 94*

[Text] President D.B. Wijetunga has enforced curfew regulations to prevent post-election violence. After promulgating a state of emergency throughout the country exercising the rights vested in him in accordance with certain security laws, he also has announced the timing of the curfews at various places in the country. Curfew will be in force between 2130 [1600 GMT] tonight and 0600 [0030 GMT] on Thursday, 18 August in most parts of the country, including (Nir Colombo), Gampaha, and Kalutara. Curfew will be enforced from 2300 tonight in Nuwara Eliya, Galle, Matara, Amparai, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, Ratnapura, and Kandy Districts. It will be in force in these districts until 0600 on Thursday. Curfew will be relaxed between 1500 and 2300 on Wednesday tomorrow in Kandy municipal areas to hold (?a religious ceremony) at Kandy [word indistinct]. Police (?headquarters) announced that those who have to travel abroad during curfew restrictions can go to the airport by using their air tickets as passes. It has also been announced that those who return from abroad can get curfew passes from the airport or from Katunayake police personnel. The state of emergency has been enforced to help law enforcement agencies maintain law and order and to provide essential services to the public. Wednesday tomorrow and Thursday the day after have been declared government, bank, and commercial holidays to avoid any inconvenience to the public because of the curfew.

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